TESTED

ASUS ZenFone Selfie, Yamaha Tricity, Canon EOS M3, Honda HR-V, Motorola Moto X Play, Lenovo Yoga 3 Pro, Sony Xperia Z4 tablet

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Speed™

NOVEMBER 2015
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Kylie Padilla

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On the Cover Kylie Padilla
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Outbox

Can technology save the Earth?

The short answer is no. At least not by itself. There needs to be a radical change in the way we interact with our planet for us to save it. Technology is simply a tool to help us achieve this goal.

Globally, many developed countries have started investing on and using clean technology—solar and wind farms, eco-friendly processes, and sustainable systems to name a few. A number of manufacturers are focusing on green tech, while consumers are starting to make more educated choices when buying gadgets and vehicles. Even the Pope issued a "green encyclical"—*Laudato Si*—and posed a most important question that we should all ponder on: "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?"

It's true—material and technological advances have given rise to so many wonderful tools for making a better life. But let's not forget to balance this with a deep respect for the Earth, as it is the only home that we have.

In this annual Green Tech issue, we've put together articles that celebrate clean, sustainable technologies, products, and people—from eco-friendly footwear and a zero-emissions SUV, to a young upcycling artist who creates pieces of furniture from 'trash.' We also have tips on how to go green in your own little way (because green efforts need not be complex or expensive), and features on Filipino inventors and inventions that help save the environment.

Technology without a moral center creates an unsafe world. Avert a bleak future by choosing to go green.

Katrina Rivere-Diga

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Meet the geeks

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Katrina Rivere-Diga *katrina@speed-mag.com*

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Candy Villanueva-Lykes left her job as an editor for a travel magazine in the Philippines and as a travel columnist for a local paper in the U.S. to answer to an even bigger boss: a demanding three-year-old. When she's not attending play dates, she continues to contribute for a few publications here and abroad while pixel stitching and light chasing. She is forever shaking off the sand between her toes and always sees the laundry hamper as half empty.

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Prices of provincial dealers may vary due to freight cost. Selected features may vary among models.

Inbox

NOKIA NOSTALGIA

Hi, *Speed!*

I saw your recent feature on the evolution of the now defunct Nokia brand, and it does make me quite nostalgic to see those phone models that became popular during my elementary and high school days. It just makes me rethink how fast gadgets come and go. Nevertheless, I hope new innovations and gadgets drive us to a better world.

Thanks, *Speed*, for being one of the few magazines to treat us to the latest in tech.

Best wishes on your next issues!

Cassie Guia

We feel you, Cassie. *We also got nostalgic putting together that story—reminiscing our tough 5110s and 3310s, and smiling wistfully at the thought of playing Snake for hours on end without draining our phone's battery. But times are a-changin' and there are (portable) solutions to our devices' dwindling battery life. Because we're thrilled that you fired us an email, we're giving back the love by gifting you with a* ***Belkin MIXIT 4000mAh Power Pack*** *(P850) to keep your smartphone powered throughout the day. We're also bundling in the following goodies:* ***Belkin MIXIT Cable*** *(P850),* ***Boompods Airpods Bluetooth over-the-ear headphones*** *(P3,910), and* ***Runtastic Sports Armband*** *(P1,400)—all courtesy of our friends from Mac Power Marketing.*

Handy partner
Hi, *Speed*!

I really enjoyed reading your articles, especially the one about the paper-thin power charger and your review of the Braven Bluetooth speaker in your October 2015 issue. Honestly I didn't have any idea what to buy, but because of your info, I do now.

Thank you very much for being a handy partner and for helping us make choices.

April Feliciano

Geeky infographic
Hey, *Speed*.

I noticed your Infograph[g]eek in this issue (October 2015) and wow, I must say I'm impressed. Very informative and also very nice to look at. I didn't know that different mobile processors have different capabilities and functions *pala*. Thanks for the info!

Jules

We want to hear from you!

Send in your thoughts and comments about *Speed* by dropping us a line or two at *editorial@speed-mag.com*.

Speed feed

@meganbata: Please grab a copy of *Speed* Magazine's October issue!

@nero_dimaandal: *Meron na akong* copy! Promise, *maganda din yung* article *ni* @meganbata!

@thegreataleczander: Best cover

@sofiaphr: Hail the Queen!

@dusekov889: I would love to grab one, but I'm too far away :(

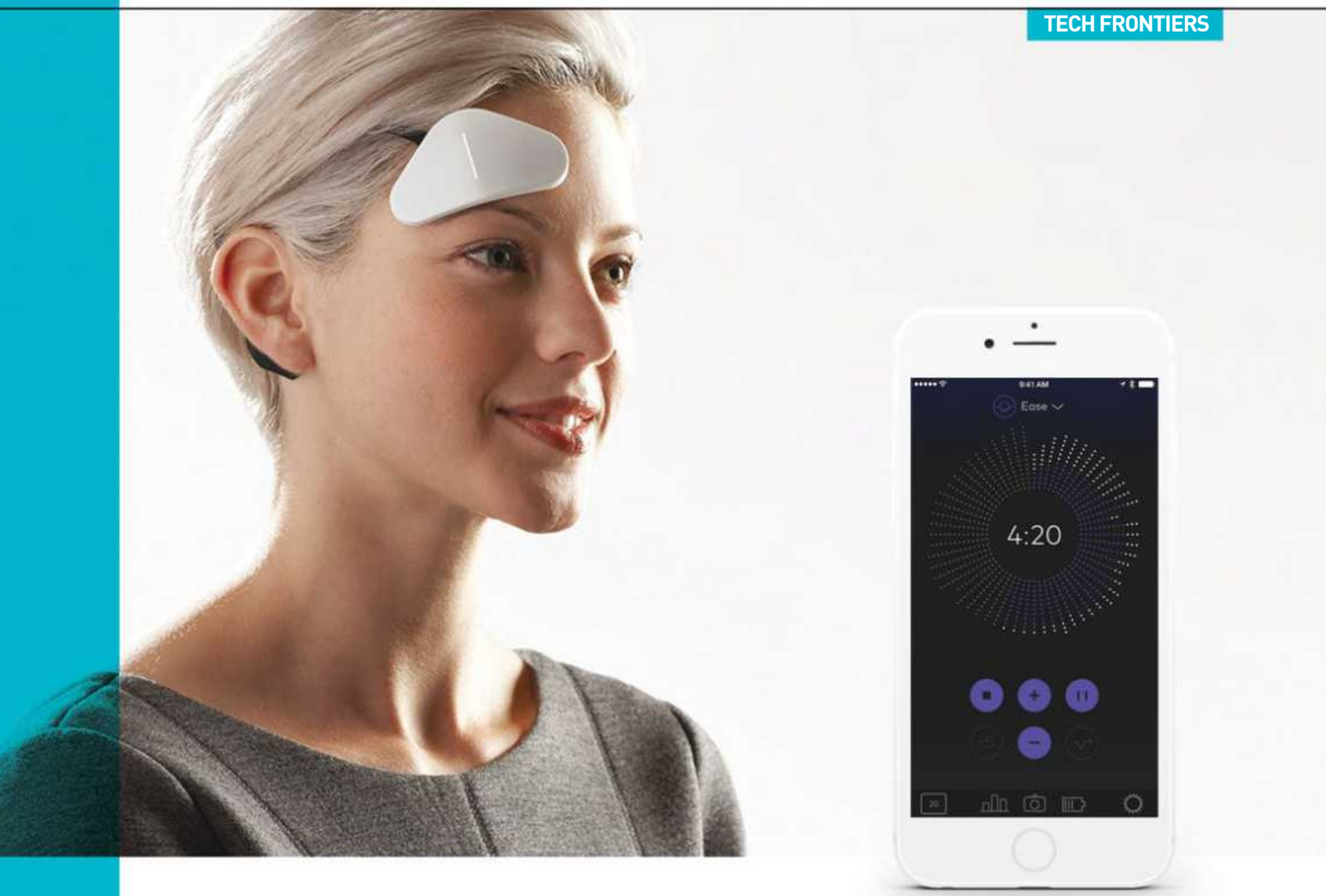
@thengdin888: Nice shot and wow legs!

@danny_omana714: Awesome, Megan! <3

Fatima Pinlac: Sooo simple but gorgeous

Xhe Min Lu: She's beautiful and stunning

Sam Beltran: *Ang* hooooot *ni* Megan Young *dito*!! Good job!!!



MIND OVER MATTER

Words **MARTIN A. CUYEGKENG**

NEED TO CALM YOUR NERVES BEFORE YOUR BIG PRESENTATION? Or do you need to psych yourself up for a very long day ahead? Thync's $299 wearable can give you calmness or energy on demand.

This little white plastic triangle feeds so-called "Vibes" that zaps electricity to the brain. Choose Calm Vibes to chill and unwind or get some much needed shut-eye. It can help you settle down and overcome anxiousness. Or, you can opt for Energy Vibes to help motivate and boost your mood for more focus when working out or studying. It helps invigorate the mind and body to kickstart the day on the right note.

This phone-controlled device can either relax or revitalize you for up to an hour, with "carry-over impacts" lasting for hours longer. According to Thync, its namesake mood-changing wearable uses neurosignaling, a proven scientific approach that safely stimulates nerves with low-level electrical pulses. As these nerves are stimulated, they signal certain parts of the brain for the desired effect—something Bruce Banner might benefit from.

Synthetic corals
CLEAN UP OCEANS

CORALS AND CORAL REEFS ARE IMPORTANT IN PRESERVING THE ECOSYSTEM BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE ABILITY TO COLLECT HARMFUL HEAVY METALS FROM WATER. Sadly, toxic ocean pollution has caused the death of many of these eco-preserving corals.

Researchers from China have found a way to save dying corals and to reduce ocean pollution through a synthetic substance that can absorb harmful metals that pollute water. Using aluminum oxide, a substance proven to be effective in eliminating pollutants, the team formed "synthetic corals" that can mimic the ability of organic coral to clean water.

So far tests have been very positive. The team conducted an experiment to purge mercury from water using the synthetic coral and found that the aluminum oxide was two and a half times more effective at eliminating pollutants than traditionally structured nanoparticles.

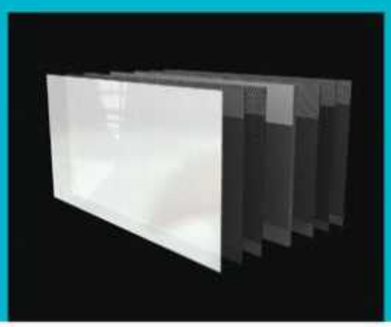
Hot rad pad

TRADITIONAL HEATING SYSTEMS UNDERGO A COMPLICATED PROCESS OF GENERATING AND THEN TRANSFERRING HEAT FROM MULTIPLE MATERIALS BEFORE THEY FINALLY WARM UP A ROOM. A simple heater requires heating water to heat up a radiator to heat up air that is finally emitted to heat up a room. This process not only consumes energy but inevitably adds up to energy costs.

UK-based startup Xefro has introduced a short cut to the process by developing a heating system that gets heat directly to its intended recipient. By using graphene as a main heating element, the company estimates cost savings by 25 to 75 percent.

Because graphene uses minimal thermal mass, heat can be turned on and off quickly so that energy is not wasted. The system combines a graphene-based heating element with an electronic system that has smart switching algorithms to control heat instantly via Wi-Fi. This combination provides the real cost savings.

Xefro has made the system available in the UK since July this year and is expected to expand to other markets within the year.



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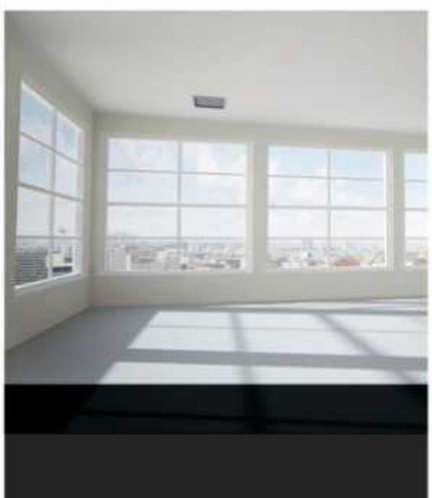

ENERGY-EFFICIENT SMART WINDOW

WANT MORE HEAT BUT NOT TOO MUCH LIGHT IN THE ROOM? OR MORE LIGHT BUT WANT TO KEEP THE TEMPERATURE COOL? A NEW SMART WINDOW MIGHT JUST MAKE YOU SING "LET THE SUNSHINE IN" WHILE KEEPING YOUR SWEATER ON.

Scientists at the University of Texas in Austin are nearly completing research to develop energy-efficient windows that can transmit light without transmitting heat or allow heat in while blocking light.

The new window technology by Professor Delia Milliron and her team uses small doses of electricity to dynamically "switch" a nanocrystal material between two modes: warm and cool.

The team is now trying to come up with ways to manufacture these smart windows in a low-cost manner. Sooner than later, we may be looking out these cool smart windows.

Words **SARAH KATRINA MARAMAG**

Hiroshima University

'Origami' bridge can help save your life

The intricate folds of the traditional Japanese art of origami have inspired scientists from Hiroshima University to come up with a prototype of a mobile bridge that can be used during calamities.

The Mobile Bridge Version 4.0 (MB4.0)—"the world's fastest, largest, strongest, and lightest expanding temporary bridge"— can contract like an accordion and can be towed on a trailer when not in use. When needed, its modular design allows it to fold out in a scissor-like action, allowing its lanes to extend end to end and form a platform for vehicles to use.

The 70-foot long bridge can be set up in about five minutes and needs no cranes or construction foundation, which means it's really handy in moments of great need.

Fly-Bag absorbs bomb blasts in planes

On a December night in 1988 a few days before Christmas, a bomb exploded in a Pan Am flight killing all 259 passengers aboard. Over two decades later, the world is still afraid of terrorist threats like the Lockerbie bombing, calling out for more innovations to keep aircrafts safe. One such invention was recently introduced in the form of bomb-proof "bags" that can contain blasts and searing gases.

If a bomb is smuggled in a passenger's luggage, the Fly-Bag bomb-proof lining can stop flying shrapnel and absorb shockwaves from explosions that can otherwise cut through a plane's fuselage. Different layers of fabric—including Kevlar and Shear Thickening Fluid—will give the lining enough strength to withstand an impact moving at 20,000mph and resist temperatures as high as 3,000°C.

Tests have demonstrated that a plane's luggage hold lined with Fly-Bag may be able to contain the force of an explosion should a device be detonated during a flight.

Braille smartwatch

Time (and text) at your fingertips

AFTER A WHILE, SIRI'S VOICE CAN REALLY GET TO YOU. UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED, THERE IS NO TURNING HER OFF. "Until now, if you got a message on iOS from your girlfriend, for example, you have to listen to Siri read it to you in that voice, which is impersonal," said Dot CEO Eric Ju Yoon Kim to Tech in Asia.

On a mission to empower the visually impaired so they can read their own messages themselves instead of listening to Siri's robotic voice, Dot, a Korean startup, developed the world's first Braille smartwatch.

The device is called Dot, and it features a module that houses four cells of six active dots each, which display four Braille characters at once. The dots corresponding to the pattern protrude from the device's surface, allowing users to read text messages and even e-books with their fingertips at customizable speeds.

INFINITY COMPUTERS TO BEYOND

Words **CANDY VILLANUEVA-LYKES**

THE GOAL IS TO GIVE A FAIR START FOR ALL, TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE BY ENSURING THAT TECHNOLOGY REACHES THE FARTHEST PLACES ON EARTH, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO CAN'T AFFORD IT. The mission is to provide a laptop for every child, to build affordable but well-made computers for children in developing countries. Sounds like a dream? One Education is making this a reality with the Infinity, a tiny modular laptop that is built to grow with the child.

A hybrid device, the Infinity comes with a touch-screen and a detachable keyboard. It comes with four modules: the camera, screen, battery, and core, which houses the processor, memory, and storage. If a student wishes to upgrade, all he has to do is swap out the different modules. It's so easy to assemble that even a child or his grandpa can do it. And because it's designed for young learners, it's tough and ready for play. It may not be affordable for everyone yet, with the unit priced at around $250, but sales will go to the distribution of the Infinity for those who cannot afford it.

EXPOSING THE TRUTH
in photography

Words **MARTIN A. CUYEGKENG**

www.123rf.com/profile_hangingpixels

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE PICTURE-PERFECT PHOTOGRAPHS EVERY SINGLE TIME—NO MATTER THE LIGHTING CONDITION—WITHOUT HAVING TO FUMBLE WITH APERTURE SIZE OR EXPOSURE LENGTH?

Well, a bunch of MIT researchers are proposing a new camera that will never overexpose a picture.

Unlike the traditional high-dynamic range (HDR) feature found in cameras today, the team's modulo camera needs only a single exposure instead of capturing multiple photos at different exposures.

In HDR mode, the sensor captures three levels of exposure and combines them together to produce a "perfectly exposed" photo. In the modulo camera's case, its sensor uses an algorithm to record large amounts of light without blowing out the pixels. This is done by tricking a light sensor into absorbing more than its maximum level of light, and resetting individual pixels' sensitivity when its maximum exposure level has been reached.

No word yet if or when this technology will turn you into a "pro" photographer by simply pointing and shooting at your subjects. But more than transforming everyday photography, the MIT team sees other uses for this technology, such as guiding robots around their environments (since robots require accurate imagery) and helping self-driving cars stay on course despite quick light changes.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

(a) image from intensity camera | (b) image from modulo camera | (c) recovered image from modulo camera

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YOU'VE ACCIDENTALLY GOTTEN A HUGE BLOODY GASH, AND THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN GET TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM, STAT. SO YOU REACH FOR THE GLUE, AND IN SECONDS, YOU'RE ON THE WAY TO RECOVERY.

That's right: glue.

After observing how mussels can stubbornly bind themselves to the bottom of boats, harbors, and rocks, Korean scientists at Pohang University of Science and Technology developed a light-activated, mussel protein-based bioadhesive (LAMBA) that could hold body tissue together. Just like with the proteins that help mussels adhere to surfaces in wet and turbulent conditions, LAMBA is strong yet flexible enough to withstand changes inside the human body.

Stitches and staples may cause scarring and issues with more delicate human tissue. Cyanoacrylate (a.k.a. super glue) can be used as a temporary fix for wounds, but its volatile chemical composition can lead to complications, and is not as sturdy as sutures in a wet environment.

LAMBA, on the other hand, is derived from tyrosines, an amino acid found in mussels, dragonfly wings, and insect cuticles. This substance becomes sturdier when exposed to visible light, even when submerged in water. LAMBA provides the structural stability needed to seal open injuries that cannot be addressed by standard surgical procedures. It also activates within 60 seconds, making it a highly efficient way to get you out of a sticky emergency situation.

Words **CARMELA MARAAN FERNANDO**

SWEET SPOT treatment

Google Life Sciences has come up with a more convenient solution for diabetics: a bandage-sized blood glucose monitor.

Their partner DexCom, a firm that specializes in manufacturing glucose monitoring devices, will be responsible for building the sensors, while Life Sciences will develop the device's miniaturization. According to DexCom, the project's goal is to create a more low-cost, disposable, and real-time system for addressing the needs of both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes patients.

Unlike with finger stick testing, the device is designed to be less obtrusive for the wearer's convenience.

Aside from being portable and easy to use, the new glucose monitor connects to the cloud so patients and their respective healthcare providers can easily store and access medical information from anywhere. This also enables Google to analyze data to improve patient outcomes and provide them with more "actionable information" on diabetes management.

The product will be exclusively distributed by DexCom, and is expected to hit the market in two or three years.

www.123rf.com/profile_wavebreakmediamicro

Introducing the world's first electronic variable valve mechanism on a diesel engine.

MIVEC CLEAN DIESEL

Clean. Powerful. Efficient.

Soon.

The **Mitsubishi Innovative Valve Electronic Control (MIVEC)** Clean Diesel engine.

Innovative Clean Diesel Engine
The all-new lightweight, low-friction Clean Diesel engine with the Mitsubishi Innovative Valve Electronic Control system (MIVEC) is the new face of diesel technology. It is an evolutionary design that boasts the perfect combination of clean power, optimum performance and remarkable fuel efficiency.

Optimized Performance
MIVEC is Mitsubishi's exclusive technology that varies the timing and lift of the intake valves for optimal performance across the rev range. At low ranges, MIVEC provides quicker on-demand acceleration while higher ranges receive a boost of power. This is the first time a diesel engine will utilize such technology.

More Efficient. Less Emissions.
Our new Clean Diesel engine boasts of a low compression ratio compared to traditional diesel engines. The lower compression ratio allows for the use of an all-aluminum block that in turn means a lighter engine and a lower overall vehicle weight. This ultimately translates to better fuel economy. A lower compression ratio also means less emissions and reduced combustion noise and friction. With the lower compression ratio, we are able to maximize the output of the Variable Geometry Turbo (VGT), which results in more power. Together with the MIVEC, what you get is a clean diesel engine that gives you the optimal combination of power, efficiency and low emissions.

Euro-4 Compliant
The new MIVEC Clean Diesel engine is designed to comply with Euro-4 regulations and even lower CO_2 and stricter emission standards in the future.

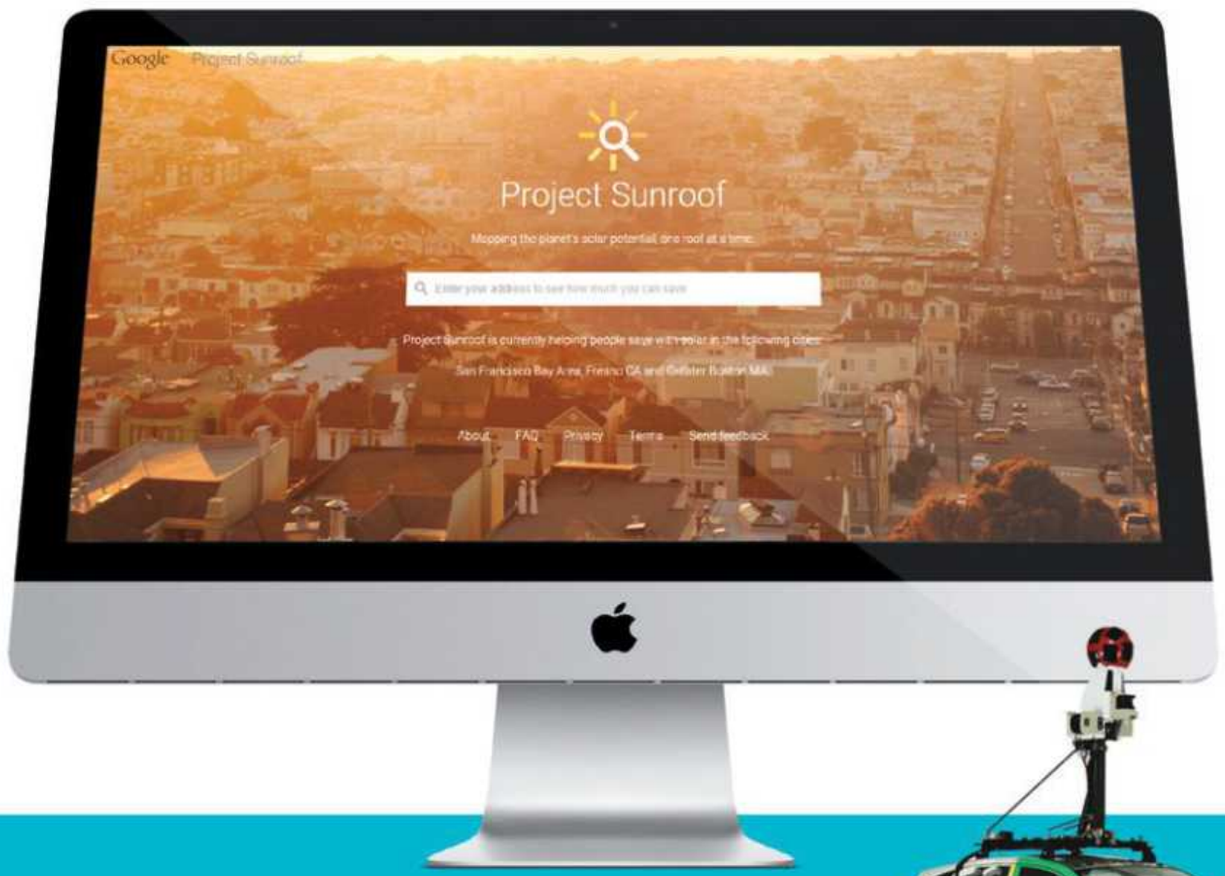
This is the future of diesel engines. Only from Mitsubishi Motors.

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Drive@earth

MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

one Google service at a time

Words **ERIK PAOLO ESCUETA**



WALKING DOWN THE STREET GOING TO WORK, I USE ONE HAND TO COVER MY FACE AGAINST THE FUMES OF STANDBY TRAFFIC WAFTING INTO THE AIR.

The other, I wave about in a futile attempt to brush away the offending smog. Later, I take out my phone to see the battery icon turn red, the price of squeezing as much juice out of it as possible, to save even a smidgen on the electric bill.

As more people gain greater access to transportation and technology, the environmental costs of using such luxuries will continue to rise accordingly. But Google is developing a couple of services to make sure that modern living doesn't have to work against the world for its afforded conveniences.

Project Sunroof (*google.com/get/sunroof*) works together with Google Maps to recommend the solar panel size that would best fit your roof, including the number of solar hours you can harness to efficiently get the most bang for your buck. Simply send Google your address and estimated electrical bill, and the program computes the exact amount of sunlight that hits your roof in a year and sends you a recommendation. Sadly, it's not available in the country as of this writing.

Google is also using their Street View vehicles to measure the air quality of mapped city sections, gathering meaningful data that city planners can use to improve urban quality of life and promote healthier modes of transport.

It might take a while, but with these services, building an environment-friendly lifestyle alongside modern-day technology becomes a more realistic proposition, and that's definitely a life worth working for.

MADE FOR THE MODERN TRAIL
INTRODUCING THE BLACK FOREST COLLECTION.
ShangriLa Plaza Mall
SM Megamall SM Marikina
SM North Edsa - Annex SM Cebu
Ayala Center Cebu SM Lanang Davao
Limketkai Mall - CDO Centrio Mall CDO
Glorietta 5 (soon to open)
EST. 1973
Timberland
BEST THEN. BETTER NOW.
Apparel, Footwear & Accessories

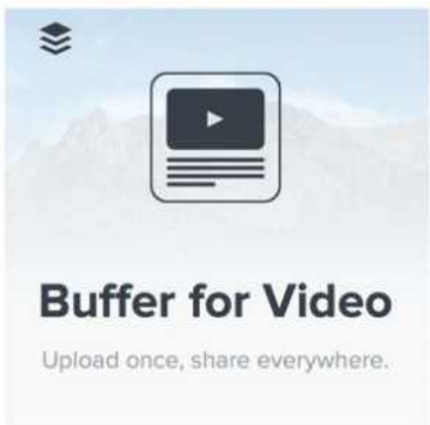
Guess-free gobbling

YOU EAT LIKE A KING, BUT ARE WORRIED YOU'LL GROW LIKE KONG. Fret not. You can monitor your calorie intake with Spelt (*spe.lt*).

Just enter the amount of food you've eaten into the site one item at a time, and it will compute the percentage of carbs, fat, and protein you've consumed. You can also enter food items as a list, so you can compute your total calorie intake for one meal, or even for one day.

SHOOT, SHARE, SPREAD

So you like sharing videos of your cat, or your video selfies, like, at least thrice a day. With Buffer (*buffer.com*), you can now schedule your video uploads to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and Google+. Simply upload your videos once (MP4, MOV, or AVI files up to 1GB), and set the posting time and date to your selected social network. Buffer also provides analytics such as likes, shares, comments, and retweets, so you'll know exactly whom to spam and when.

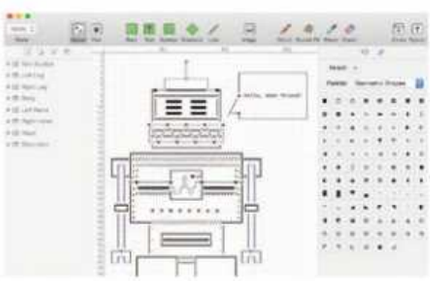


Music videos redefined

Void and form. Space and shape. However you see them, they will always be the foundations of art, and in Void and Form (*voidandform.com*), you'll enjoy the fusion of aural and visual art by creatives from the '70s onwards. The site is packed with provocative and mind-bending music videos that deviate from commercial standards, destroying elitist (read: pretentious) views of what art should be. And if you're a budding videographer, you're definitely welcome to share your work.

ASCII no questions

Several decades ago, ASCII-based art graced our monochrome monitors and dot matrix printouts—in grayscale! Now, Monodraw for Mac (*monodraw.helftone.com*) revives the genre by letting you create text-based art like diagrams, banners, mind maps, and flow charts with easy-to-use features and drawing tools. Since it's text-based, your creations can be embedded almost anywhere, and exported in PNG and SVG formats. If you're new to ASCII art, Monodraw will acquaint you with the well-loved retro tech aesthetic.



Forever DOES exist

Ever wanted to become virtually immortal? ETER9 (*eter9.com*) offers to immortalize your content via a social network that runs on artificial intelligence, with virtual characters that interact with your online persona even if you're not logged in. You can also fashion an AI version of you—your Counterpart—that learns from your activities and interacts with other community members as you would, both real and virtual. The interface takes some getting used to, but the entire concept seems promising.

Words **CARMELA MARAAN FERNANDO**

LIFE IS A BEAUTIFUL SPORT LACOSTE

MOODNOTES

Platform: iOS

Words **SARAH KATRINA MARAMAG**

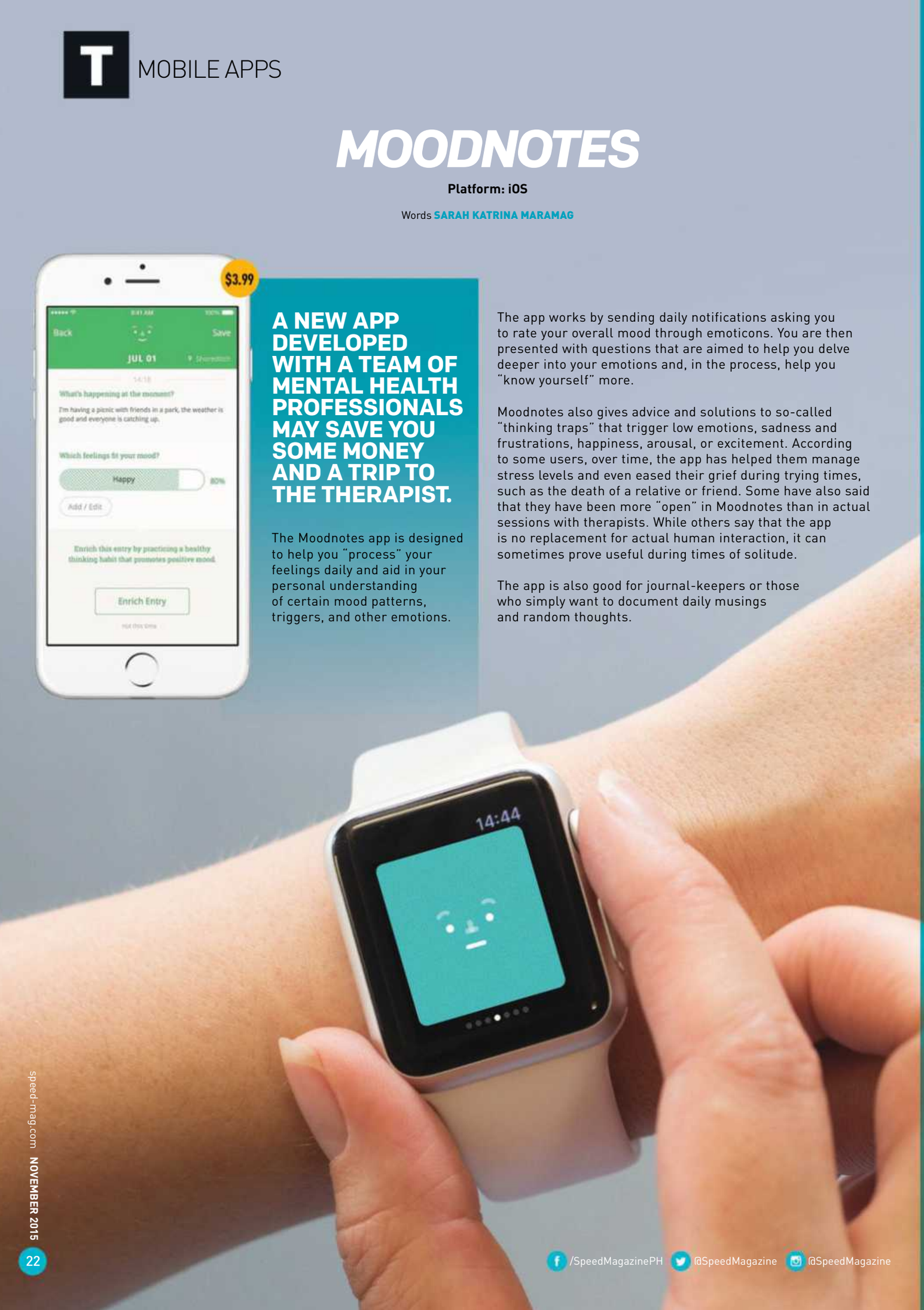
A NEW APP DEVELOPED WITH A TEAM OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS MAY SAVE YOU SOME MONEY AND A TRIP TO THE THERAPIST.

The Moodnotes app is designed to help you "process" your feelings daily and aid in your personal understanding of certain mood patterns, triggers, and other emotions.

The app works by sending daily notifications asking you to rate your overall mood through emoticons. You are then presented with questions that are aimed to help you delve deeper into your emotions and, in the process, help you "know yourself" more.

Moodnotes also gives advice and solutions to so-called "thinking traps" that trigger low emotions, sadness and frustrations, happiness, arousal, or excitement. According to some users, over time, the app has helped them manage stress levels and even eased their grief during trying times, such as the death of a relative or friend. Some have also said that they have been more "open" in Moodnotes than in actual sessions with therapists. While others say that the app is no replacement for actual human interaction, it can sometimes prove useful during times of solitude.

The app is also good for journal-keepers or those who simply want to document daily musings and random thoughts.



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Signily

Platform: iOS

The sign of the times points toward a better life brought about by technology. And it doesn't discriminate, not even for the hearing impaired. The deaf can now look forward to communicating on mobile using sign language. Signily is a sign language keyboard app for iOS (coming soon to Android) that uses emoji-style hands to represent signs and shapes. The keyboard features right- and left-handed shapes and signs representing ASL (American Sign Language), as well as numbers 1 to 30 and mixed signs.

GENIUS

Platforms: Android, iOS

We're all guilty of making up our own words of a song because we don't know the entire lyrics. But with the Genius app, you can be karaoke king by knowing the *correct* lyrics of the song (never mind that you sing off key most times). The app allows you to play songs and read the lyrics at the same time. It also gives you facts about the tracks you play. Want to know the song playing in the coffee shop you're at? Simply hold your phone up to the music and tap the soundwave button. Annotated lyrics will appear on your screen.

VEE

Platform: iOS

Vee is a new video making app that gives you the capability to shoot, edit, and share in an entirely different way to produce high-quality films (1080p, 16:9 widescreen, and up to 240 fps). Also a video editing app, Vee helps you combine, reorder, and trim clips quickly. It also allows you to adjust speed and personalize with 18 live filters to choose from. After your movie making magic, you can export and upload your masterpiece right from the app for sharing on Instagram, Facebook, and more.

FASTCAP

Platform: iOS

You've missed a lot of epic moments in your life that was worth recording—baby's first step, brother's embarrassing tumble—all because you were scrambling to get to your video recorder or fumbling with your phone's camera app. Now there's a faster way to capture these moments. The Fastcap Instant Video Camera is an app that instantly records as soon as you tap on it. You don't have to look for a record button or focus on a shot. The app also comes with rudimentary editing features.

GIPHY CAM

Platform: iOS

Gif fans, rejoice! Giphy, the search engine for all things gif, has launched Giphy Cam, which allows you to not just share but create your own gifs. With the app, you can record five-second gifs that are automatically looped and can be shared through text or social media. You can also save your gif video in your camera roll and personalize it with fun effects, filters, and stickers. Obviously, you can share your creations via iMessage or Twitter, as those platforms support .gif files. You may still share them on Instagram, which doesn't support gifs, but Giphy Cam will switch the file to a looping video instead.

POODUCTIVE

Platforms: Android, iOS

Most people read or daydream while they're on the toilet. But Pooductive encourages you to be more productive while you're on the potty. The app allows you to chat with friends all over the world who are also currently doing number two like you. Strange, yes. But according to the developer, Ricardo Gruber, they hope to connect the app with charities "that focus on both clean water and improving hygiene in developing countries." So while connecting and pooping, you are also helping raise social awareness.

KNOCK KNOCK

Platform: iOS

Do you find it hard or awkward to exchange contact info with someone you just met? Knock Knock is a social network app that gives you an easy way to connect with people around you by simply knocking on your phone screen. The knocking gesture will start an instant Bluetooth connection to pair you up with other users close by. Once connected, you can choose what contact information you want to share. It can also be used to locate users within the vicinity. According to Ankur Jain, the founder of Humin and developer of the app, Knock Knock is aimed at the college-age crowd to help them make connections without the awkwardness of asking for contact info.

Words **CANDY VILLANUEVA-LYKES**

SO FAST

THEY COME WITH A WINDSHIELD.

NIKE RUN X2

Because everyone should be able to see just how fast they are, the Nike Run X2s keep you feeling light, comfortable and quick on track, trail or road. A lightweight, adjustable frame and secure-wrap temples hold everything perfectly in place, while an adjustable, ventilated silicone nose bridge keeps the fit perfect and the fog at bay.

FIND YOUR FAST AT NIKEVISON.COM

IS THE STYLUS MAKING A COMEBACK?

GADJO CARDENAS SEVILLA

When multi-touch

smartphones and tablets became mainstream, the technology was so good that it retired old notions of input like physical keyboards and pen styli for data entry. When Steve Jobs introduced the iPhone's software keyboard, he said that the stylus was undesirable and clunky, and that our fingers were all that we needed.

That might be true for navigating apps, keying in numbers, and some basic interaction, but the problem with human fingers is that they're not great for detailed drawing or writing.

The mightier pen

This is why stylus and virtual pad companies like Wacom have thrived for years as the best way to get detailed drawings and written test into PCs. With touch-screen devices, there's always been a temptation to use cheap stylus accessories, which don't really do much more than what fingers can accomplish.

A capacitive stylus, on the other hand, brings various levels of pressure and control, which when applied directly on a screen or display, ensure an almost paper-like realism and degree of control.

The next generation of tablets and 2-in-1 devices like the Microsoft Surface Pro 3, Lenovo Yoga, and Apple iPad Pro have stylus input that boasts pressure control, varying brush type emulations, and the power to replicate even more complex mediums like oil on canvas, water color, and chalk. Generating these very nuanced mediums on a digital scale takes astounding computational and graphics power (especially on a Retina Display in the case of the iPad Pro).

Looking at phablets, particularly the Samsung GALAXY Note 4 (which I have used extensively), the addition of a smart stylus is a definite plus. Sure, there aren't that many third-party apps supporting Samsung's S Pen, but the ones that ship with the Note 4 (and I presume, the Note5), are quite rock solid.

Unparalleled note taking

It may seem old fashioned, but there's nothing quite as effective as pulling out a notebook and a pen to quickly jot down an idea, work on a sketch, or simply write down one's pressing thoughts. This is why notebook companies like Moleskine are making a bundle on arguably old school notebooks and pens.

To be able to replicate this with our smartphones or tablets is something that does have merit and might become more than a trendy feature. One of the biggest reasons why people gravitated to the Surface Pro is the stylus, which does an admirable job at handwriting recognition as well as drawing and painting on various apps.

It is no surprise that Apple is going with their oddly named Apple Pencil for the iPad Pro and is promising more innovative levels of control and creative options. While the iPad Pro is going to be an expensive device geared toward enterprise and wealthy artists and content creators, I'm wondering if the Apple Pencil will be one of those features that trickle down the line to smaller iPads and maybe the iPhone 6 Plus.

Many of us hardly 'write' on pen and paper anymore; I find myself struggling to scribble legibly when I take down notes longhand. This is because like many others, I'm pretty rusty. Most of the time, I use the keyboard on my ThinkPad or MacBook to write articles, columns, and emails.

Smart pens and styli designed for use in modern touch devices, smartphones, and phablets might really be the next important trend worth developing as we slowly embrace our increasingly digital lives.

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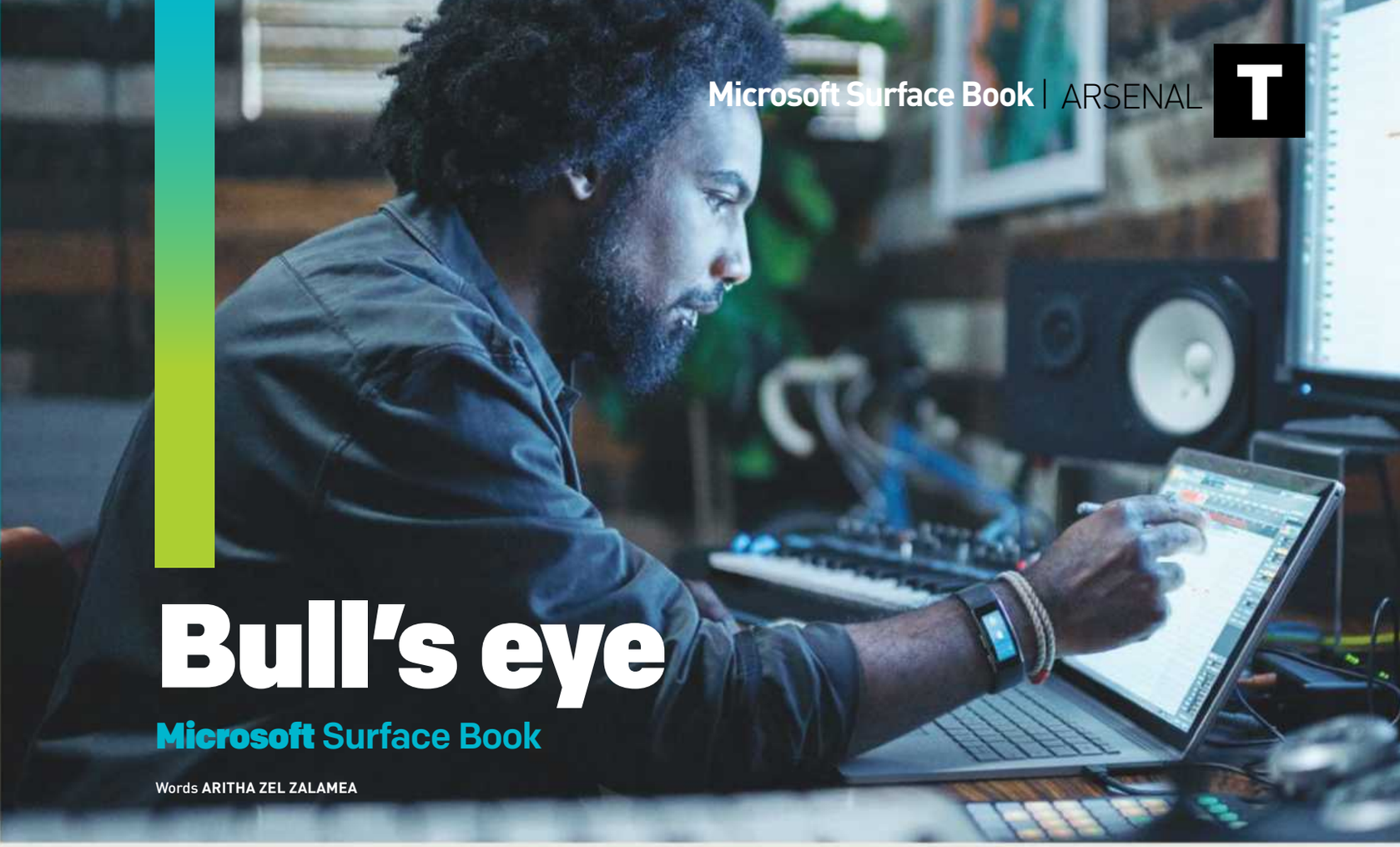
NEXT-LEVEL TABLET
Microsoft Surface Pro 4

Microsoft continues to improve on its Surface line with the release of the Surface Pro 4. The tablet that the company touts to be worthy of replacing your laptop comes with a Surface Pen, and a 12.3-inch PixelSense display capable of 10-point multi-touch and in an aspect ratio that mimics a real paper's dimensions.

The body is made of magnesium, measuring 292.1 x 210.42 x 8.45mm. As light as 766g, the Surface Pro 4 should be convenient to work on while you're walking around the room and to transport wherever your on-the-go lifestyle may lead you with its battery life that guarantees up to nine hours of video playback.

Running Windows 10, the Microsoft Surface Pro 4 gives you access to full Windows desktop apps. You can choose from three Intel Core processor models—m3, i5, and i7—and three RAM options—4, 8, and 16GB. The tablet comes equipped with a USB 3.0 port, microSD card reader, headset jack, Mini DisplayPort, cover port for the keyboard with kickstand, and SurfaceConnect.



Bull's eye

Microsoft Surface Book

Words **ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA**

TWENTY YEARS AGO, NEITHER STEVE JOBS NOR BILL GATES PROBABLY ENVISIONED MICROSOFT TO GET INTO THE COMPUTER HARDWARE BUSINESS, AND YET HERE WE ARE NOW SEEING MICROSOFT DIVING INTO THE HARDWARE POOL AFTER YEARS OF DIPPING ITS TOES AND FEELING THE WATER. AND, OH, WHAT AN OLYMPIC DIVE IT HAS MADE.

While other brands are coming up with their own take on the form factor and productivity that Microsoft's Surface Pro gave birth to, the company jumped ship and went parasailing instead with the outing of a full-on laptop.

The Microsoft Surface Book is not only beautiful for a first attempt at a laptop. It is a beautiful laptop whether it was the first iteration or the nth. For this, the ultrabook that has made it on top of many people's wish lists deserves praise and applause, just as much as Microsoft does.

1 You can't go short on power with an option between the 6th-gen Intel Core i5 and i7 processors. The former can be paired with either Intel HD graphics 520 or NVIDIA GeForce GPU with 1GB memory, while the i7 is available exclusively with the NVIDIA combination. Both variants can be matched with 8 or 16GB RAM. Get fast access to files via the internal 128/256/512GB or 1TB SSD.

2 Microsoft came up with a one-of-a-kind hinge design that allows you to mount the Surface Book on the supplied keyboard for regular laptop use or flip the Book for using it flat on its back like a canvas. Of course, you can use the Book as a tablet as well by simply detaching it from the keyboard.

3 The Microsoft Surface Book comes with two cameras. The 5MP front-facing shooter would serve you good on voice calls and quick selfies, while the 8MP rear camera comes with 1080p HD video recording capability. Both sides have a microphone to ensure efficient audio input. The speakers in front are enhanced with Dolby Audio Premium.

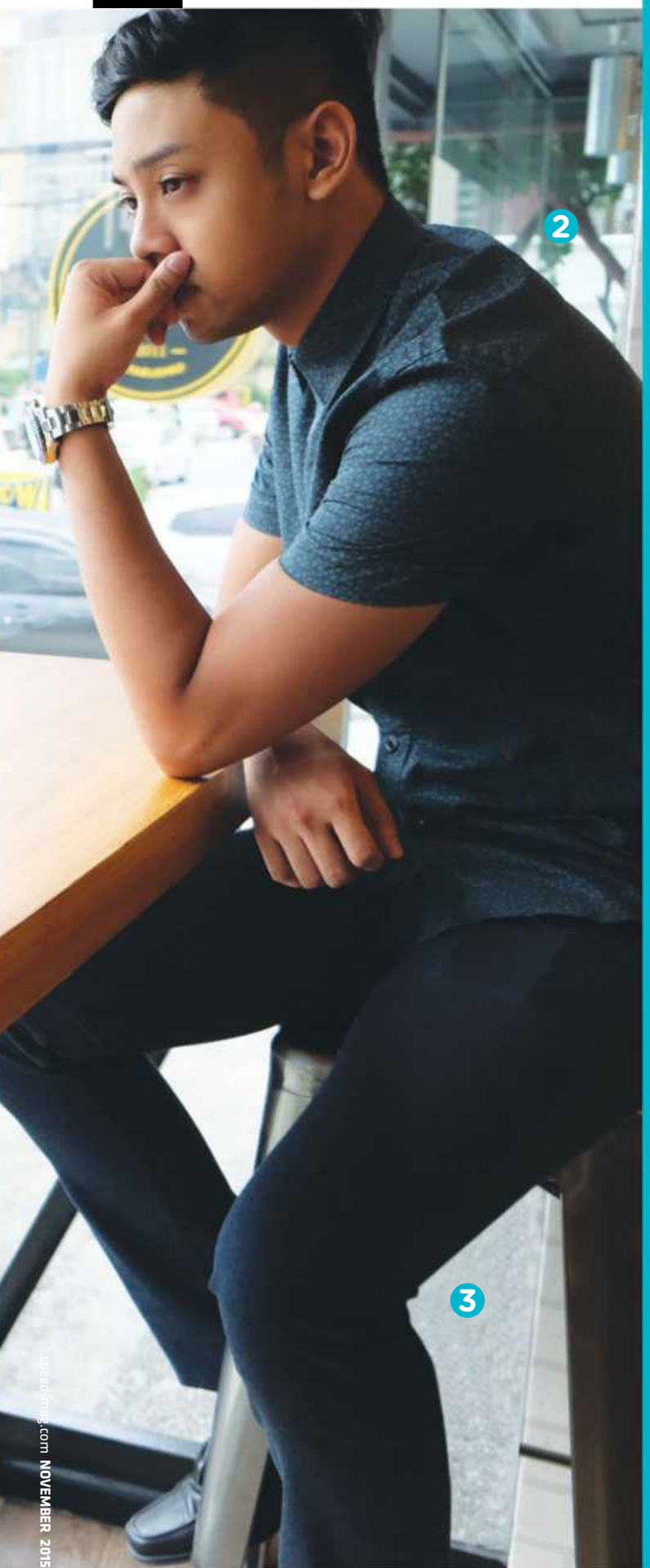
4 The Surface Book may be extremely slim with a depth of only 13mm at its thinnest, but you still get two USB 3.0 ports, an SD card reader, a headset jack, and a Mini DisplayPort. Stay connected wirelessly via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth 4.0.

5 The 312.3 x 232.1 x 13-22.8mm body is made of magnesium alloy and comes in silver, giving the Surface Book a sturdy build and a premium-looking design. At only 1.5kg, this ultrabook should be easy to carry around and use all day with the battery's promise of up to 12 hours of video playback.

6 The 13-inch PixelSense display on the Book has a 3000 x 2000-pixel resolution and 267ppi pixel density. The aspect ratio of 3:2 keeps the display dimensions close to the aspect ratio of real paper. When using the Surface Pen, the screen activates its Palm Block technology to allow you to rest your hand on it without interfering with the Pen input.

7 The Surface Book runs Windows 10 Pro out of the box and comes with a 30-day free trial of Microsoft Office. This means that you should also get Cortana, Microsoft's virtual assistant initially available on Windows Phone 8, and on Windows 10 in the US, the UK, and China.

8 The Surface Pen makes an appearance here for you to maximize the 10-point multi-touch display. Boasting 1,024 levels of pressure sensitivity and a one-touch shortcut to Microsoft OneNote, this stylus promises to aid your note-taking, writing, and illustrating. When used with the new Microsoft Edge browser, you will also be able to annotate directly on a webpage.



PRODUCTIVE DESK JOCKEY

When you're always swamped with work, a reliable form factor on your desk is a must. The stylish and space-saving (1)**Lenovo S500 SFF desktop** (starts at P26,000) is available in 120GB or 195GB SSD, providing faster start up and read/write times. You can upgrade the operating system to Windows 10 Pro to enjoy improved productivity.

Keep the smart look with the (2)**Perry Ellis short sleeve shirt** (P2,550) paired with the (3)**Perry Ellis slim-fit pants** (P2,450). Lace up your (4)**GIBI Derby canvas leather shoes** (P2,899.75) and bring with you the (5)**Fossil Aiden messenger bag** ($248) to complete the whole ensemble.

Work never stops just because you left your desk. Continue editing your report using the (6)**Starmobile Play Neo** (P2,990). The Play Neo's 5-inch screen makes it easy for you to view emails, photos, and documents, while its huge battery capacity offers 4-hour talk time and 250-hour standby time.

Words **PAT CALICA**

URBAN ADVENTURER

You're dynamic and spontaneous, aware that adventure is just lurking around the corner.

Whether you're walking down the busy streets of Quiapo, hanging out with friends at The Fort, or visiting nearby cities like Subic or Tagaytay, always be prepared. Secure in your pockets the (1)**OPPO R7** (P13,990) to capture exciting life moments with its 13MP rear and 8MP front cameras. Upload them fast via 4G LTE connectivity.

Sporting an urban jungle look, the (2)**National Geographic Earth Explorer NG 2476 medium messenger bag** provides ample room for cameras, laptops, accessories, media gadgets, and personal gear, to keep you well-equipped and ready for any adventure.

Mix the stylish with the comfortable: Wear the (3)**Perry Ellis Gengham Collar Pima Cotton Polo** (P1,450) and the (4)**Perry Ellis denim pants** (P2,250) when you plan to conquer the roads. Accessorize with the green (5)**Victorinox I.N.O.X. Paracord** for the ultimate city nomad getup.

Words PAT CALICA

CRUISE VIRTUOSO

Already booked for a week-long cruise this holiday season? Here is the gear that you need to have.

With its mark-free curved back and uniquely contoured sides, the (1)**Alcatel Flash 2** (P6,190) is your perfect cruise companion. The ergonomic design lets you access all functions using just one hand, while the dedicated shutter button answers your picture-taking whims. Trust the (2)**JBL Charge 2+** (P7,995) portable and compact stereo speaker to bring the party anytime, anywhere.

The full titanium (3)**G-SHOCK MRG-G1000** (P149,995) boasts Casio's innovative hybrid solar-powered timekeeping system, giving you accurate time wherever you are in the globe. Its dual time display keeps you up to date with Philippine time while traveling.

Once the ship docks, explore the sun-kissed foreign land wearing the (4)**Nautica striped polo shirt** (P2,895) and the navy (5)**Nautica twill shorts** (P3,450). Made of genuine leather, the navy blue (6)**GIBI low-cut laced-up rubber shoes** (P2,899.75) take care of your soles.

Words **PAT CALICA**

VERY PERRY ELLIS
GLORIETTA 5
SM MEGAMALL
SM AURA
SM THE BLOCK
SM MALL OF ASIA
SM STORE MAKATI
PERRYELLIS.COM

Victorious velocity
LG V10

Put yourself up to speed with the new LG V10—a monster in size, strength, and style that gives all the necessary ingredients for the daily hustle and bustle. The 5.7-inch Corning Gorilla Glass 4-protected V10 sports a 16MP rear camera with built-in Steady Record, Enhanced Audio, and Quick Video Editor for on-the-go media sharing. It is powered by a 3000mAh battery, 4GB RAM, and octa-core processor inside a stainless steel reinforced frame with a synthetic back cover for shockproof durability.
Price: $600

BRUTAL POWER PLAY
Google Nexus 6P and 5X

Not out of the game just yet, the Google Nexus series is looking to take out the competition with its new iterations. The 5.7-inch Huawei-made **Nexus 6P** ($499) is equipped with a 2GHz octa-core processor for heavy multitasking and 3450mAh battery for longer-lasting computing. Meanwhile, LG churns out the 5.2-inch **Nexus 5X** ($379.99) for Google, putting together a hexa-core processor and an Adreno 418 GPU. Both phones have displays protected by Corning Gorilla Glass 3 and feature a 12.3MP rear camera that sports a larger 1.55µm pixel size and boasts 4K video recording.

LUMINOUS LUXURY
Microsoft Lumia 950 and 950 XL

Microsoft is keeping its mobile hardware ferocity on point, rolling out the 5.2-inch **Lumia 950** ($549) and 5.7-inch **Lumia 950 XL** ($649). The Lumia 950 is powered by a 3000mAh battery and a hexa-core processor, while the larger Lumia 950 XL comes with 3340mAh battery and an octa-core chip. Each device comes with a WQHD AMOLED ClearBlack display, 20MP rear camera, 4G LTE connectivity, built-in wireless charging capability, and 32GB internal storage, which is expandable up to 200GB. The best-selling point could be the Windows 10 operating system for mobile productivity, including the use of Office tools.

Words **JOHN SOSMEÑA**

Pixel pleasure
GOOGLE Pixel C

Google's Pixel C is both powerful and versatile. The tablet boasts 32GB internal storage, 3GB RAM, and an octa-core NVIDIA Tegra X1 processor. It runs Android 6.0 Marshmallow out of the box and jumps onto the USB Type C train. The 10.2-inch screen has a 3:4 aspect ratio and a 2560 × 1800-pixel resolution, which brings the pixel density to 308ppi. If you want a more laptop-like experience, get the optional magnetic Bluetooth keyboard for an additional $149.
Price: $499 (32GB); $599 (64GB)

BUDGET-FRIENDLY POWERHOUSE
Lenovo E31

The Lenovo E31 boasts strong computing power thanks to its 5th-gen Intel i5-5200 processor paired with 8GB RAM. At only 1.59kg and 0.8-inch thin, this Windows 8.1-powered 13.3-inch laptop with a Full HD display and up to five hours of battery life should offer functional and portable computing. Storage options include up to 256GB SSD and up to 1TB HDD. Keep your files secure with the password and fingerprint unlock modes. Connect via Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.1, USB 3.0, VGA, or HDMI. The Lenovo E31 also comes with a 4-in-1 microSD card reader and Intel HD graphics chipset.
Price: P30,990

Words JOHN SOSMEÑA

Signed, sealed, delivered
Vertu Signature Touch

If contemporary class is what you're looking for, then look no further than the LTE- and NFC-capable Vertu Signature Touch. Handmade in England, this luxury device boasts a 5.2-inch 130-carat sapphire crystal screen, Grade 5 Titanium outer casing, Zirconia earpiece pillow, and handstitched calf-, lizard-, and alligator-skin with a ruby key finish. The made-to-order phone is equipped with an octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 810 processor, 4GB RAM, 64GB built-in storage (expandable via microSD), a 21MP rear camera with dual LED flash, Hi-Fi Dolby Digital Surround Sound speakers, and a 3160mAh Li-ion battery with Qualcomm Quick Charge. Powered by Android 5.1, this might be the most expensive Lollipop you'll ever buy.
Price: $10,800

MORE THAN A PHONE

Lenovo Phab Plus

BIG, STURDY, AND ELEGANT, the Lenovo Phab Plus comes with a 6.8-inch multitouch IPS display, a quad-core 1.5GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon 615 processor, 2GB RAM, expandable 32GB internal storage, Android Lollipop, a 5MP front camera, and a 13MP main shooter with dual LED flash. Camera features include geo-tagging, touch focus, face detection, HDR, and panorama. The large screen should come in handy when watching videos and browsing through photos while on the go, but don't worry about the Phab Plus conking out on you in the middle of nowhere because it is powered by a large 3500mAh LiPo battery.
Price: P14,999

IT'S A MARVELOUS EXPERIENCE

Sony Xperia M5 Dual

THE 5-INCH SONY XPERIA M5 DUAL IS A PHONE YOU CAN CARRY WITH YOU TO JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE. The 21.5MP rear camera helps you keep memories near or far; it can shoot up to 5x closer with Clear Image Zoom and record 4K videos. The 13MP front camera promises to be no pushover either, so you can take sharp selfies wherever you go. Save all these on the 16GB built-in storage or on an up to 200GB microSD. With this device's dual SIM feature, you should be easy to contact no matter your cellular network, while the 2GHz octa-core processor coupled with 3GB RAM should give you enough power for your mobile computing needs.
Price: P21,990

Words **JOHN SOSMEÑA**

Pioneer

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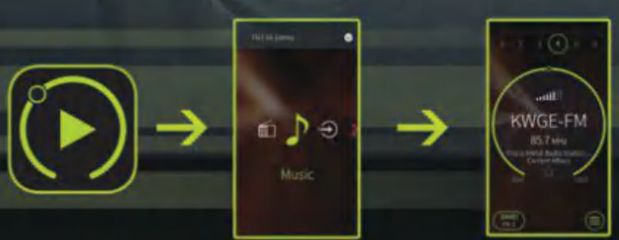

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B.old
SONY h.ear on (MDR-100AAP)

Don't judge a headphone by its color. So, despite the loud design, take the Sony h.ear on seriously because it has a high-resolution frequency response range of 5Hz to 60kHz, which is well-supported by the 24 ohms impedance, titanium-coated diaphragms, and 40mm drivers. The construction is designed to sustain a strong bass, while the inline remote mic is compatible with mobile devices. With all these, the bold hues of Sony's h.ear on headphones could only mean one thing then: bold sound.
Price: P8,999

RICHNESS IN A SMALL PACKAGE
Bose SoundTouch 10

FALLING ASLEEP LISTENING TO YOUR WIFE'S FAVORITE NPR PODCAST MAY NOT BE SOOTHING, BUT YOU CLEARLY HAVE NO CHOICE. That is, until she flies off on a business trip. To save you from scrambling to put her playlist back on her return, the Bose SoundTouch 10 comes with six presets that you can individually assign to different channels or playlists. The SoundTouch 10 is small enough to keep in the bedroom and versatile enough to keep you and the missus happy. Add more SoundTouch systems around the house for a continuous listening experience, all controlled via your mobile device.
Price: $199.95

RARE DJ
Pioneer HDJ-700

DISC JOCKEYS DON'T JUST CLIP THEIR EARPHONES WITH ONE SHOULDER BECAUSE IT LOOKS COOL—IT IS ACTUALLY VERY UNCOMFORTABLE. They do so because it helps them monitor the sound that comes out of the loudspeakers while still concentrating on their "spins." That is why Pioneer's HDJ-700 headphones, specially designed with DJs in mind, have one earpiece that rotates up to 60 degrees. Aside from being DJ-worthy construction-wise, the HDJ-700 features 40mm drivers that come with rare earth magnets and a 19µm diaphragm.
Price: $129

Words ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA

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Sunglass Haven Newport, Bonifacio High Street, Olympic World Alabang Town Center, Glorietta 3, Gateway, Robinsons Place Ermita, Robinsons Magnolia,
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Glub glub glub
JBL Xtreme

Who's afraid of a little water? Not the JBL Xtreme. You can leave it by the poolside or take it to the beach without fear of ruining your listening experience when it gets wet. With its rugged and splashproof design, the JBL Xtreme is ready to go with you on your adventures and play 15 hours of nonstop music. You can even use it to charge your other mobile devices via USB. This Bluetooth speaker gives you control of your playlist, and lets you share the DJ role with a friend or two. When the rain falls, run for cover, but know that your speaker will keep on going.

Price: P15,995

Words **ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA**

DEPENDABLE SOLDIERS

Sony Walkman NW-A25 and NW-A26HN

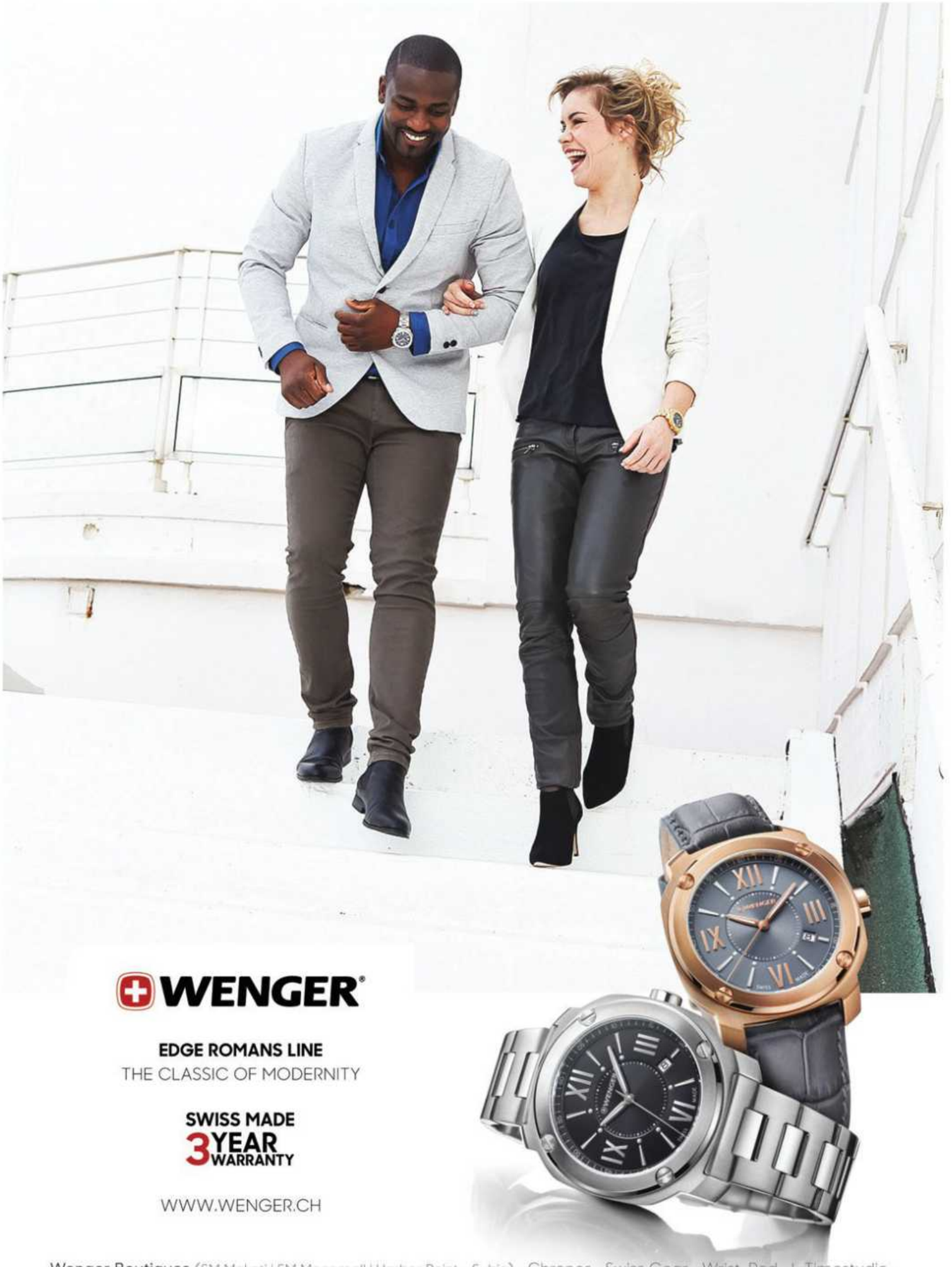
HI-RES AUDIO NEED NOT BE TOP OF THE LINE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD SETTLE FOR MEDIOCRE. No less than Sony's iconic Walkman series offers new media players that support high-resolution audio files, including FLAC and Apple Lossless. The 16GB NW-A25 (P9,499) and 32GB NW-A26HN (P14,999) hope to continue carrying the torch for the Walkman line with up to 30 hours of HRA or 50 hours of MP3 playback, and Sony's very own low latency codec (LDAC). The NW-A26HN sweetens the pot by bringing a pair HRA-compatible noise-canceling headphones to the table.

PLAY IN TIME

B&O Beoplay H3

B&O IS KNOWN FOR GREAT-LOOKING HEADPHONES AND SPEAKER SYSTEMS, SO EXPECT THE SAME ELEGANCE AND SOUND QUALITY IN THEIR EARPHONES. The in-ear Beoplay H3 promises to envelop you in sound instead of just blasting concentrated music onto your ears. Be transported anywhere the playlist takes you thanks to the custom-designed 10.8mm driver and frequency range of 20 to 16,000Hz. Out of the box, you get four pairs of earbuds in different sizes, a 1.2m cord, a carrying case, and a flight adaptor. The B&O Beoplay H3 comes in Black, Golden, Red, and Silver.

Price: $249



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King of the room
LG 65EG960T and 55EG920T 4K OLED TV

LG's latest OLED TVs now have 4K Ultra High Definition (UHD) technology to offer viewers video quality with deeper blacks and a richer color contrast. The 65-inch 65EG960T and 55-inch 55EG920T sport 5.97mm- and 4.9mm-slim edges, respectively.

Not playing 4K content? LG's new TV's Tru 4K Engine Pro technology enhances your low resolution content. The Time Machine II feature enables video recording for future playback, while a webOS 2.0 UI matched to LG's magic remote makes for user-friendly navigation. With sound designed by music hallmark Harman/Kardon, LG ensures you get all-around immersive entertainment.

INSTASMART TV
Kata Box

NO SMART TV? NO PROBLEM. The new Kata Box, which comes with a free Kata Game Controller, allows your non-Smart TV with HDMI port to stream videos, download apps and games, and manage your social media accounts. The Kata Box is powered by a 1.5GHz Amlogic S805 quad-core processor and 1GB RAM, and features 8GB internal storage, which is expandable up to 32GB.
Price: P2,999

KILLER SET
Haier K5000 Series

Haier Asia Co. Ltd outs a serious band of brothers into town with the release of the K5000 LED Smart TV series. Commanding onlookers' attention are its aluminum brushed finish and metal stand. The LED edge-lit backlighting, a 5,000,000:1 mega dynamic contrast ratio, and IPS panel add to the K5000 Series' appeal. Available in 32, 40, 50, and 55 inches, these new Haier TVs are ISDB-T-ready for detecting digital channel signals, and come with USB and HDMI ports.

Words ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN

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Stability in mobility
NIKE FI Impact 2

Nike bites into the challenge of producing a lightweight golf shoe with superior traction and support. Its progeny: the Nike FI Impact 2. Designed with a stretchy upper, the FI Impact 2 gives the foot added breathability while allowing natural motion. A Dynamic Fit System using Flywire cables locks down your foot with adaptive support, and the phylon midsole gives light cushioning to your step. Though spikeless at the bottom, its outsole offers durable rubber traction for flexible grooves on the driving range.
Price: $140

Words ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN

TRADITIONAL TRICKS, DOMINATING DESIGN
TaylorMade M1 Driver

TaylorMade goes with tried and tested science to engineer its defining creation in the M1 Driver. With a crown built with a 7-layer carbon composite, this driver is made lightweight for smoother swings. But the stripped off weight isn't just some fancy reduction. The crown weight is instead channeled in the club, lowering the center of gravity, giving it more efficient power transfer for stronger and precise grooves. With a carbon-fiber lattice pattern adorning the back and a white titanium front, you get one elegant yet hip-looking club for your next tourney.
Price: $499

CUTTING-EDGE NOISE CUTTER
JBL Reflect Aware headphones

Music-driven athletes who are torn between listening to their tunes and staying aware of their surroundings now have a device that suits them. The JBL Reflect Aware headphones allow the user to optimize their audio performance by providing a choice to cancel out noise or simply lower down the volume. This customizable mechanism works in tandem with the JBL Ambient Aware App. The Reflect Aware has a stripped down build, requiring no battery box because it can be powered by your mobile device via a lightning connector or microUSB thanks to Ambient Aware technology.
Price: P6,999

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SUZUKI

Way of Life!

Radical crossover
NISSAN Juke

Weird? Quirky? Funky? One thing's for sure: the Nissan Juke does not look like any other car on the road, thanks to its radical styling.

It's got boomerang-shaped LED combination lamps on the hood, big and round headlights, Nissan's signature V-grille, enlarged lower air intake, raked front pillars, large windshield, sloped rear roofline, bold rear bumper, and hidden door handles. Aside from Pearl White and Black Obsidian, you can also choose from two fun paintjobs—Red Alert and Solar Yellow.

The solitary 4x2 CVT variant (P980,000) is powered by a 1.6-liter HR16DE gasoline engine rated at 114hp and 154Nm. It comes with a complete array of safety features such as dual front airbags, ABS, EBD, brake assist, and a rear parking camera. According to Nissan Philippines, deliveries will start coming in by January 2016, but you can start reserving now.

ROUGH AND RUGGED

Foton Toplander

FOTON'S FIRST ENTRY TO THE SUV MARKET COMES IN THE FORM OF THE 7-SEATER TOPLANDER (CALLED SAUVANA IN OTHER MARKETS), WHICH SITS ON THE SAME PLATFORM AS THE BRAND'S THUNDER PICKUP.

Offered in both 4x2 (P998,000) and 4x4 (P1.150M) variants, the Toplander features a five-link rear coil suspension setup that promises a comfortable ride. Its 220mm high ground clearance and 600mm wading depth means it's geared up to tackle the metro's flood-prone streets.

The imposing exterior of the Toplander is courtesy of a bold front grille, sweptback headlamps, large wraparound taillights, prominent wheel arches, and a roof-mounted spoiler, finished off with 17-inch alloy wheels.

The inside ain't too shabby either, with a modern cockpit, dual-zone air-conditioning, and foldable third-row seats for additional cargo space.

This SUV is powered by a 2.8-liter Foton Cummins ISF diesel engine that delivers 160hp and 360Nm, mated to a five-speed manual transmission.

Words KATRINA RIVERE-DIGA

AOC

SCRATCH IT TO WIN IT

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- Displayport
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- Clear Vision
- Ultra Low Power Consumption
- Off Timer
- Eco Mode
- Wall Bracket: Yes
- VGA,MHL,HDMI,DP
- Full HD - 1920 x 1080

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HD 1080P DCR LED

19.5” E2070SWN

Key Features
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- LED Panel: Hg Free
- 16.7 Million Colors
- Ultra Low Power Consumption
- e-Saver
- Wall Bracket: Yes
- VGA
- TN Panel
- HD - 1600*900

Full HD 1080P DCR Low Power

19.53” M2060SWD

Key Features
- FUHD MVA Panel
- LED Panel: Hg Free
- Ultra Low Power Consumption
- Hair-Line Texture
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- Eco Mode
- e-Saver
- Wall Bracket: Yes
- VGA, DVI
- Full HD - 1920 x 1080

Full HD 1080P Flicker FREE

20.7” E2180SWN

Key Features
- FHD 1920x1080 High Resolution
- Flicker Free Backlight Technology
- Clear Vision
- e-Saver
- TFT Panel
- VGA
- Wall Bracket: Yes

Full HD 1080P DCR DCB

21.5” E2250SWDN

Key Features
- Green LED Monitor
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- Eco mode
- Off Timer
- 16.7 Million of Colours
- Dynamic Colour Boost (DCB)
- Direct insert for easy plug-in
- Wall Mount: Yes
- Full HD - 1920 x 1080
- TFT Panel

HD 1080P DCR LED

21.5” E2270SWDN

Key Features
- LED Panel: Hg Free
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- e-Saver
- 16.7 Million Colors
- Wall Bracket: Yes
- VGA
- HD - 1980 x 1080
- TN Panel

DCR HDMI

23.6” M2461FWH

Key Features
- Clear Vision
- e-Saver
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio(DCR)
- Ultra Low Power Consumption
- Eco Mode
- Multimedia-Ready with HDMI • Input
- Off Timer
- Energy Star
- Wall Bracket: Yes
- MVA Panel
- VGA, HDMI
- Full HD - 1920 x 1080

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Pure speed
YAMAHA YZF-R3

Ready for street or track, the 2015 YZF-R3 is an everyday supersports bike from Yamaha's R-Series. A step up from the R15, the R3 is powered by a liquid-cooled, fuel-injected 320cc engine that churns out 41.7hp and 30.2Nm of torque.

The R3 heralds styling inspired by its bigger siblings. It comes with an aluminum swingarm, lightweight diamond-type frame, sharp dual headlights, and comes in MotoGP Blue, Lava Red, and Midnight Black colorway. There's also an analog tachometer and multifunction display.

NIMBLE MACHINE
Kymco Agility 125

RUNNING ERRANDS IS A BREEZE WHEN YOU RIDE THE KYMCO AGILITY 125 (P65,900). Light and easy to maneuver, the 125cc scooter features an air-cooled four-stroke mill that produces 9.25hp @ 7,500rpm and 9.1Nm @ 6,500rpm for a zippy ride.

This utilitarian scooter features a wide floorboard where you can either rest your feet or place your groceries. There's also a big underseat compartment for extra storage space. Going for a longer ride? Fold up the rear saddle so you can rest your back and ride comfortably.

RIDE X-TREME
Honda Zoomer-X

JOINING HONDA PHILIPPINES, INC.'S GENERATION S SCOOTERS IS THE ALL-NEW ZOOMER-X. Like the BeAT-Fi and Click125i, the Zoomer-X features Honda's Enhanced Smart Power, a new engine technology that results in quieter starts and smoother engine revs.

The Zoomer-X also comes with an idle stop system for enhanced fuel economy and a combined brake system that distributes braking force to the rear and front wheels.

Powered by a 110cc PGM fuel-injected engine with 8.23hp and 8.58Nm of torque, the stylish Zoomer-X sports a fully digital meter panel, new headlight encased in a stainless steel frame, inverted front shock, 12-inch tubeless tires, flexible U-box compartment, and a rear naked style. Ride in style for P93,900.

Words KATRINA RIVERE-DIGA

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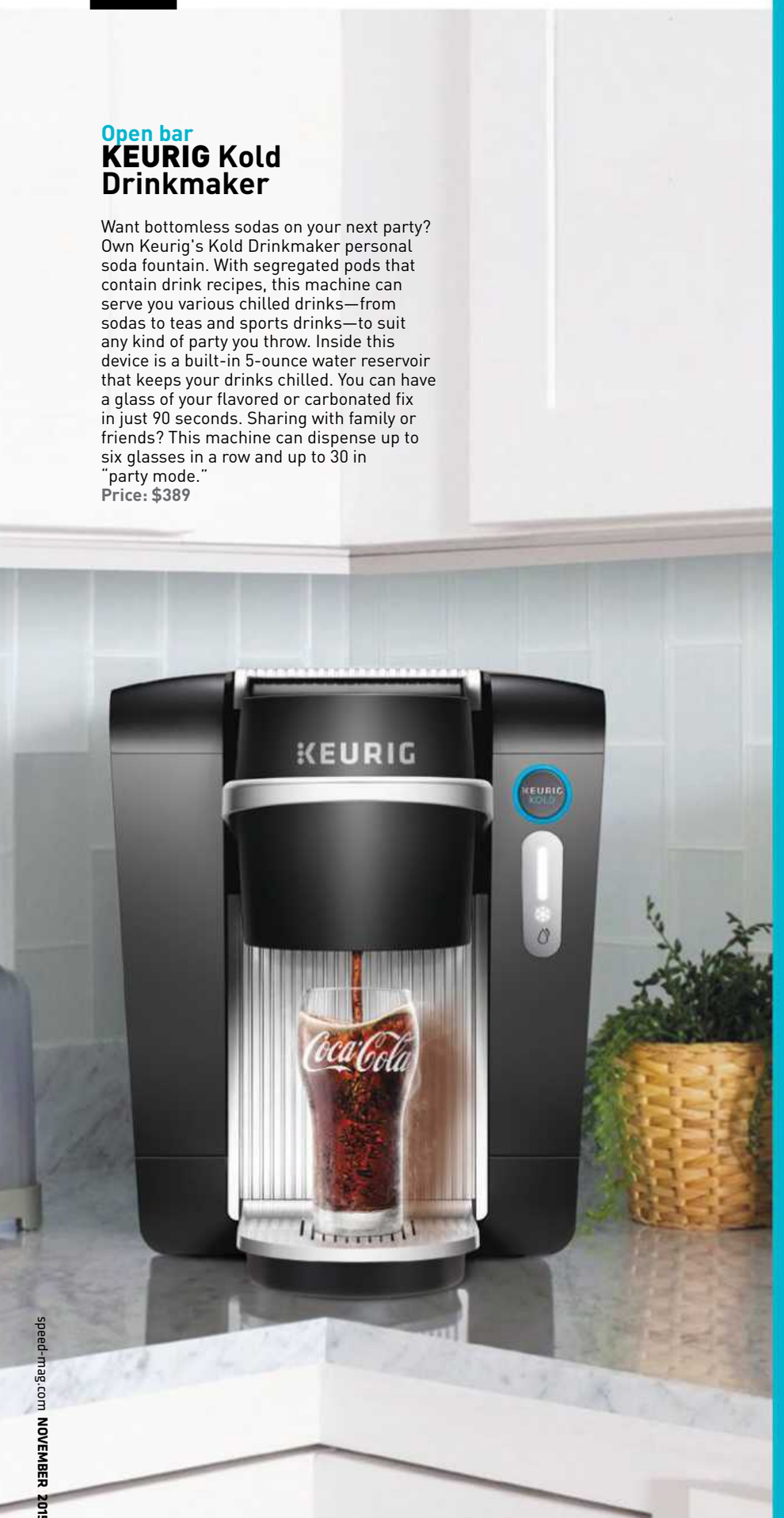

Open bar
KEURIG Kold Drinkmaker

Want bottomless sodas on your next party? Own Keurig's Kold Drinkmaker personal soda fountain. With segregated pods that contain drink recipes, this machine can serve you various chilled drinks—from sodas to teas and sports drinks—to suit any kind of party you throw. Inside this device is a built-in 5-ounce water reservoir that keeps your drinks chilled. You can have a glass of your flavored or carbonated fix in just 90 seconds. Sharing with family or friends? This machine can dispense up to six glasses in a row and up to 30 in "party mode."
Price: $389

SINGLE-PRESS COFFEE

Miele Generation 6000 Coffee Machine

Now on its fourth iteration, the Miele Generation 6000 Coffee Machine is the coffee maker for the driven man's home. It is equipped with fully automated program controls, including CupSensor, EasyClick Milk System, and One Touch for Two features.

CupSensor allows the machine to automatically adjust the height of the spout to suit your cup or glass, while the EasyClick Milk System makes your cup click into place. The One Touch for Two lets you to prepare two different coffee specialties simultaneously—a cappuccino or latte macchiato, for instance—which is perfect for having a coffee date at home.

SLEEP DEEP

Samsung SleepSense

Suffering from sleep deprivation? A Samsung home innovation could save you from your woes. Samsung SleepSense is a new sleeping sensor that doubles as a sleep therapist and is designed to help improve the quality of your sleep. Place it under your mattress and it begins to track your total sleep time, sleep efficiency, the time it takes for you to fall asleep, the number of times you wake up in the middle of the night, the number of times you get out of bed, percentage of time in REM (rapid eye movement), and percentage of time in deep sleep. Using a contactless sensor, it analyzes your heart and respiratory rates as well, and gives you feedback in the morning through the SleepSense mobile app.

Words ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN

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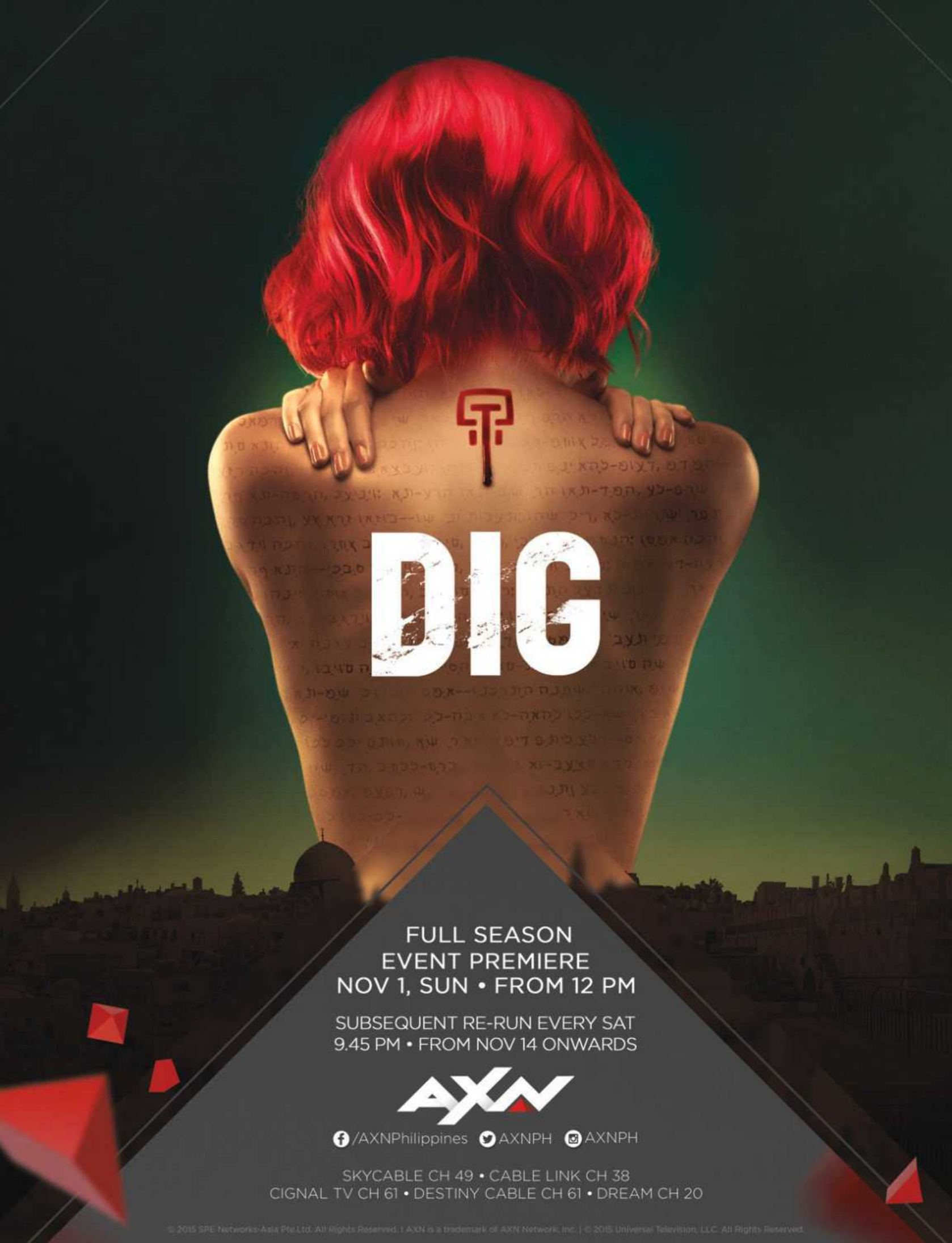

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PR NG
GR ND

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MUSIC & MADNESS

SONY MDR-Z7, PHA-3,
and **Walkman** NW-ZX2

WHAT WE TESTED THIS MONTH

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GEEK METER

BUY NOW

GOOD ENOUGH

WHY NOT?

MEDIOCRE

BECAUSE NO

74 **YAMAHA** Tricity

76 ***NBA** 2K16*

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1705

Flexible babe

LENOVO Yoga 3 Pro

Review by **PAT CALICA**

THE **NUMBERS**

Display
13.3-inch 3200 x 1800 QHD touchscreen
OS
Windows 8.0
CPU
Intel Core M-70 processor, integrated Intel graphics
Memory
512GB SSD internal storage, 8GB RAM
Camera
720p front @30fps
Connectivity
Bluetooth 4.0, Wi-Fi, GIGA LAN, 2 x USB 3.0, 1 x DC-in/USB 2.0, 4-in-1 card reader, micro-HDMI
Price
P76,995

DIMENSIONS
330 x 228 x 12.8mm, 1.19kg

Now thinner and lighter, Lenovo's third-generation Yoga laptop is one of the slimmest Ultrabooks on the market. But while the Lenovo Yoga 3 Pro blows its predecessors and rivals out of the water in the looks department, will it also triumph in everything else?

For my usual work activities—Web browsing, video and music streaming, working on office documents, and a little bit of photo editing—the Yoga 3 Pro's performance is good and fast. However, this Yoga laptop leaves a lot to be desired when it comes to multitasking, gaming, and video editing, especially for a device at this price point.

The battery improved compared with the previous Yoga laptops, but it still lags behind other portable systems because of the Yoga 3 Pro's slim design that doesn't leave room for a bigger cell. At 50 percent brightness while running basic computing tasks, the Yoga 3 Pro can last up to six hours of use. If the brightness is at maximum and demanding apps are open, it gives you four hours tops.

Thanks to Intel's Core M processor, Lenovo is able to give the Yoga 3 Pro a sexier and lighter form factor. As thin as a regular spring notebook, this laptop fits into a backpack or tote bag, making it easy to carry around. The weight isn't much, especially if you compare it with your bulky laptop.

We've seen similar slim designs from other laptops, but the Yoga 3 Pro ups everyone else with its flexible form factor. It now sports a flashy watchband hinge comprised of more than 800 individual pieces of steel and aluminum, which allows you to use the Yoga 3 Pro in Laptop, Stand, Tablet, and Tent modes without worrying about its durability.

The new JBL speakers fitted on the Yoga laptop works well. The sound is clear and good on quiet environments, but tinny and distant in other cases that you'd prefer using headphones or external speakers instead.

The screen looks great from all viewing angles, the graphics look sharp, and the real estate is just right. The colors burst, but not to the point that they look over saturated. Lenovo can still improve more on the screen's anti-glare, though.

SPEED SAYS

The Lenovo Yoga 3 Pro looks really good with its new hinge, versatile design, and thinner, lighter form. Its performance and battery are best for everyday mainstream computing tasks. But are these enough features to spend this much money on? Perhaps not.

GEEK METER

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1706

Maybe this time

CANON EOS M3

Review by **ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA**

THE **NUMBERS**

Sensor
24.2MP CMOS
Lens
18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 EF-M
Video
Up to Full HD
Memory
4GB SD/SDHC/SDXC
Price
Starts at P25,998 (w/18-55 lens)

DIMENSIONS
110.9 x 44.4 x 68mm, 366g

Mirrorless interchangeable lens cameras (or MILCs) with large sensors are a dime a dozen nowadays. You are probably so used to them that you have become difficult to impress. I am a victim of the disease of having too many options as well. Of the bunch, Canon's mirrorless camera line is something that I want to root for, maybe because the EOS M is one of the first products I reviewed for *Speed* a few years back. To this day, I still love the quality of the photos that it gave me. And I must admit that I am still crossing my fingers that Canon finally gets everything right.

It is small and light, which makes it a delight to bring around. Wearing it around my neck via the supplied strap doesn't create any discomfort or strain.

There is no EVF, but the articulating LCD is convenient for live previews. It flips all the way up for self-portraits as well. The screen is bright and shows vivid colors.

The EOS M3 can connect to a network or your mobile device via Wi-Fi. This is fairly easy to do without the need for a manual. The EOS Remote app is available on iOS and Android.

The grip makes it easier to secure the camera, but for some reason, the EOS M3 doesn't quite fit my hand if I follow the placements of the grip and the thumbrest to a T. The body seems too short for me (and I already have small hands), making it difficult to operate some buttons and dials via single-handed operation.

Image quality is very Canon. The photos are what you expect to have—and love—from a mirrorless camera with a large sensor. The colors look realistic, and the depth of field is apparent with a smooth bokeh. I took the EOS M3 to the Asia Pop Comic Con and it produced beautiful and crisp images, whether of people, of small toys, or of large installations.

Since its first iteration, this EOS line has been fraught with auto-focus problems, and the EOS M3 has not outgrown it. While much better than the endlessly indecisive AF on the EOS M, the AF on the EOS M3 experiences difficulty in focusing on what's already right in front of it and within good distance—say, three feet. With everything else held constant, the AF is inconsistent in its ability to focus, and it does get absolutely irritating.

SPEED SAYS

The Canon EOS M3 produces sharp photos with lively colors and smooth bokehs. Just for image quality alone, it is easy to fall in love with this MILC. But taking button layout and AF performance into consideration creates second thoughts. And third. And fourth.

GEEK METER

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1707

Sexy sophistication

LG G4 Stylus

Review by ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN

THE **NUMBERS**

Display
5.7-inch 1280 x 720 258ppi capacitive IPS LCD
OS
Android 5.0 Lollipop
CPU
1.4GHz octa-core MediaTek 6592M
Memory
8GB internal storage, microSD up to 32GB, 1GB RAM
Camera
13MP rear, 5MP front
Connectivity
Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, USB 2.0, GPS
Price
P10,990

LG upgrades its stylus-touting handset with the release of a more affordable yet improved G4 Stylus, succeeding the more expensive G3 Stylus. Beyond the packaging, we also look into some core specs and features to gauge its strength in the market. Here, we tested the 3G Dual SIM variant, the H540.

With a similar sexy-looking curved design like the flagship G4, you're guaranteed that it's an elegant-looking 5.7-inch phablet that you won't feel ashamed to take out of your bag or pocket. Its back panel may be made of plastic, but it looks sleek and metallic from afar.

I'm a fan of the elegant yet fun feel of the LG OS, and it continues the tradition in the G4 Stylus. An improved clock speed is a good leap for LG and allows running of casual games with minimal lag, but its 1GB RAM could have been doubled.

The signature Rubberdium Stylus causes no problem, be it in sliding or clicking. The stylus is highly responsive and glides smoothly through the phone's screen.

The G4 Stylus' camera also produces stunning well-lit shots, but I'd have to admit feeling disappointed whenever shooting indoors because grains and noises become very visible. Selfie lovers may also be dismayed by the noisy image quality of the front camera.

LG could have increased the 8GB internal storage, but apparently for now, we just have to rely on memory expansion via an external microSD. It does have a good 3000mAh battery, though, which is enough to power your applications for a couple of days.

SPEED SAYS

For those crazy about form factor elegance and a hip-looking UI, the LG G4 Stylus is one hot phone for you. It is stylish, has a smooth and responsive stylus, and a decent clock speed. But LG could've boosted the internal memory and the camera's low-light shooting capability.

GEEK METER

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1708

Pastime purger

LENOVO P70

Review by ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN

THE **NUMBERS**

Display
5.0-inch 720 x 1280 294ppi IPS LCD capacitive touchscreen
OS
Android 4.4 Kitkat
CPU
1.7GHz octa-core Cortex-A53
Memory
16GB internal, microSD up to 32GB, 2GB RAM
Camera
13MP rear, autofocus, LED flash, 5MP front
Connectivity
4G LTE, Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g/n, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS, A-GPS, microUSB, USB Host
Price
P11,990

Compared with Lenovo's more recent midrange phones—the A7000 and the S60—the Lenovo P70 has a more powerful processor, therefore being offered at a slightly higher price point. But what you barter for cashing in extra bucks is a juicy 4000mAh battery for your multimedia and gaming needs.

I frequently play *Marvel Future Fight* on the P70. And even while leaving the game running in the background when not in use, the smartphone's battery life would last several days on a single charge.

The P70 sports a simplistic build—a plastic back with a matte finish matched with shiny glasslike edges. The build feels pretty solid, but I find it quite boxy and bulky. In terms of graphics, the P70 renders vivid and well-saturated colors matched to a playful UI. It would have been better if it were equipped with a Full HD display, although I am glad that Lenovo didn't opt for an even bigger screen.

The P70's slight setback is its camera. While capable of shooting good quality images in good to moderate lighting, photos sometimes reveal a reddish tone and unnatural colors when taken in low-light conditions. But what it lacks in photography prowess, it makes up for in performance. Its 1.7GHz octa-core processor mated to a 2GB RAM is a good buy for an P11,990 phone.

SPEED SAYS

With its large battery capacity and high computing power, the Lenovo P70 is more for the on-the-go power user, multimedia mogul, or mobile gamer than the traveler who loves taking adventure shots. Given its price, the P70 hoards pretty good specs that rival more expensive phones.

GEEK METER

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• WINDER WONDERS BOUTIQUE 6750

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1709

Self-shooter

ASUS ZenFone Selfie

Review by KATRINA RIVERE-DIGA

THE **NUMBERS**

Display
5.5-inch Full HD display, Corning Gorilla Glass 4
OS
Android 5.0
CPU
1.5GHz octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 615
Memory
32GB internal, microSD up to 128GB, 3GB RAM
Camera
13MP rear and front with dual LED flash
Connectivity
Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n/ac), Bluetooth 4.0
Price
P11,995

DIMENSIONS
156.5 x 77.2 x 10.8 ~ 3.9 mm, 170g

The Oxford Dictionary named "selfie" the 2013 word of the year. Two years hence and our social media feeds are still peppered with self-portraits taken from different angles and altered/ enhanced/ transformed using every filter possible. Heck, even phone manufacturers are still launching selfie-centric products.

ASUS' entry into this segment is the ZenFone Selfie. Where others have their high-res cameras on the backs of their phones, ASUS has mounted 13MP cameras and dual-tone flashes on both the front and back of the ZenFone Selfie. Does the phone deliver on its promise and live up to its name? Read on.

The selling point of the ZenFone Selfie is its front camera, which is right smack in the middle of the upper bezel. It has an f/2.2 aperture and 88-degree wide-angle lens so you can squeeze in more people into a shot. Selfies taken during daytime are okay but lacking in detail, and the front-facing flash does a decent job of lighting up your face when taking self-portraits in poor lighting conditions. A word of warning: don't use the beautification mode liberally or you'll end up looking weird.

The ZenFone Selfie is a capable performer—apps load and run without trouble, and day-to-day functions run smoothly.

Battery life is good. On most days, the phone made it through the entire day before you need to plug it in to the mains.

The rear camera shoots well outdoors or in places where there's bright light. Images have good color balance, but there's also aggressive noise reduction at play, which you'll notice when you zoom in on the photos. The laser AF works as advertised and helps you to quickly focus on your subject. Indoor photos are generally okay, although expect plenty of noise when lighting is poor.

The ZenFone Selfie has a curved design and a back shell that's smooth to the touch. While the device is a bit thick, the shape and finish make the phone easier to grip.

The navigation buttons aren't backlit and the power button on the top edge of the handset is a bit hard to reach—but they're nothing you can't live with.

The screen is sharp and has pretty good viewing angles, and colors are punchy. It didn't hold up too well outdoors, though, even on the brightest setting.

SPEED SAYS

An affordable, reliable smartphone, the ZenFone Selfie delivers an outstanding performance for its price. While the cameras are not without flaws, they're still some of the best in their class.

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music & madness

Review by **ARITHA ZEL ZALAMEA**

HRA or high-resolution audio is the next frontier in digital music, taking listening experiences everywhere to a whole new level. Okay, perhaps not everywhere, but mostly in the homes and office cubicles of the people who can afford it—at least, for now.

Competing with turntables and vinyl records for audiophiles' budget and storage space, hi-res digital audio players (DAPs) and FLAC files are replacing iPods and MP3s. Still not satisfied, music-loving commoners have started adding headphone amplifiers, boosting the clarity and volume of sound to maximize the lossless compression of digital audio.

This triad of a portable HRA setup from Sony is just one example of how far the lust for HRA has brought us. They aren't your everyday music listening fare. What they offer—a sturdy build, the promise of high-fidelity sound, and premium technology—could just be the stuff that an audiophile's dreams are made of.

Sony takes high-resolution audio seriously, and so do we. That's why we are reviewing nothing less than Sony's flagship models from their 2015 Hi-Res Audio lineup: Walkman NW-ZX2, MDR-Z7 headphones, and PHA-3 headphone amplifier.

The whole setup costs as much as an old car.

This is madness, you say? No, this is Sony.

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1710

Sony MDR-Z7

If you're after a full sound, powerful bass, and as much detail as you can get from digital sound, then the Sony MDR-Z7 headphones should be on your list of options. But you should also have P32,599 stashed away for a pair.

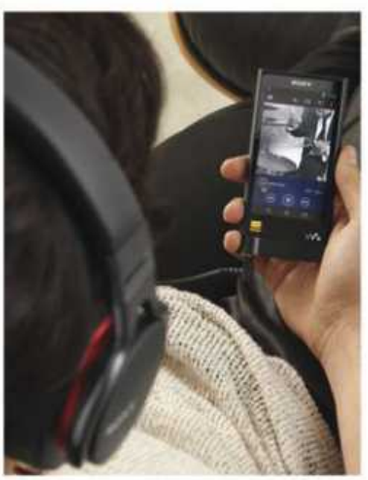
The MDR-Z7 doesn't throw sound all over the place; the experience doesn't feel 3D in that sense. The 4 to 100,000Hz frequency range tells you that your highs and lows are well-represented. While these are loud headphones, the output seems more contained and deep, and whether that's a good thing or not depends on the listener's preference. However, you can be assured that the MDR-Z7 can take no matter what you're listening to thanks to its 70ohm impedance and 102dB capacity.

The over-ear closed design cancels out noise, although that's not exactly a key feature of the headphones. The build feels very solid and unfortunately, heavy on the head. Pair these headphones with any hi-fi player or headphone amp and you're good to go.

These are the only headphones I know that come with balanced connection. That is significant if you're after real stereo sound where the left and right channels remain intact separately. However, you can't connect this with just about any player, so check your existing audio equipment (or To Buy list) if you really have use for it. Otherwise, you are left with the normal headphone cable it comes with, which still produces excellent sound, but it would still be better if you can maximize the balanced connection.

GEEK METER ● ● ● ● ●

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1711



Sony Walkman NW-ZX2

This monster of a media player is literally and figuratively heavy. The Sony Walkman NW-ZX2's build is extremely sturdy and can induce a concussion thanks to its heavy aluminum alloy frame. It adds so much weight to my everyday carry that I can't quite justify bringing it with me all the time. All the control buttons are on the right side and are slightly depressed from the body, which takes getting used to, especially when you put the unit inside the provided carrying case.

The alloy frame and copper-gold-plated chassis aim to eliminate vibrations that could devalue your listening experience and which would be more evident when playing bass-heavy tracks.

The NW-ZX2 runs on Android, so you can install it with apps from the Google Play Store as you wish. You can also watch videos on it, but the 4-inch screen is too small for any decent movie experience. The large-capacity battery is reliable; even when playing FLAC files, you won't have to charge the NW-ZX2 for days.

Sound quality is hands down superb whether paired with the MDR-Z7 alone or with the addition of the PHA-3. The 128GB built-in storage is a generous offer for lossless file formats and is even expandable via microSD.

The **P52,999** price tag would make this too steep for many people. Not that expensive DAPs aren't on the market now, with some even selling for up to $2,000, but decent hi-res players from lesser mainstream brands are already available for less than $500. And when compared with some of these DAPs, there is not much difference in sound quality to warrant the difference in price.

GEEK METER ● ● ● ● ●

Sony PHA-3

The Sony PHA-3 looks like a headphone amplifier on steroids. It is portable in the sense that you can take it with you. Even though it fits in your bag, the unit adds so much hardware that I feel it is better off left in the house with the Walkman NW-ZX2.

Using this with the Walkman NW-ZX2 doesn't bring much improvement on sound clarity and volume, probably because the NW-ZX2 is already a very capable media player. However, you should know that without the PHA-3 in the mix, you won't be able to maximize the MDR-Z7's balanced connection because the NW-ZX2 (and most likely whatever DAP you are using) doesn't have two jacks for input.

The PHA-3's power becomes more evident and useful when it is paired with a non-Sony DAP or a lower-model Walkman. Any setup would find a significant upgrade with the PHA-3. Even your midrange Ibasso or Fiio would benefit greatly from the addition of this headphone amp. The PHA-3 opens up the sound very well and adds an immense amount of volume, which you can control via the gain switch.

What you should take note of is the kind of headphones that you use with the PHA-3. Even the headphone models that I thought were very capable proved to be insufficient in sustaining the power that the PHA-3 can deliver. That means, on top of the **P43,999** that you would spend for the PHA-3, you also have to get high-quality headphones for your upgrade to really be useful.

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1712

GEEK METER ● ● ● ● ●

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1713

Extreme performance

MOTOROLA Moto X Play

Review by GADJO CARDENAS SEVILLA

THE **NUMBERS**

Display
5.5-inch 403ppi 1080p HD LCD, Corning Gorilla Glass 3
OS
Android 5.1.1 Lollipop
CPU
1.7GHz octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 615, 550MHz Adreno 405 GPU
Memory
16/32GB internal storage, 2GB RAM
Camera
21MP rear, 5MP front
Connectivity
LTE, Wi-Fi, NFC, Bluetooth 4.0, microUSB, 3.5mm audio jack, dual nanoSIM
Price
Starts at £279

DIMENSIONS
148 x 75 x 8.9-10.9mm, 169g

The Motorola Moto X Play improves on the renowned features and styling of the Moto X (2014). It feels as fast and responsive as last year's model and matches the performance of the more expensive Samsung GALAXY Note 4. It exceeds both of these in battery life, easily edging into two and a half days of mixed use.

The four infrared sensors from last year's Moto X are gone, which means waving off calls and checking on notifications without touching the phone are no longer possible. But you do get the phone to wake the moment you pick it up, and most of the Moto Active Display features are available.

The Moto X Play brings a louder hands-free speaker, FM radio capability, and a whopping 3630mAh battery. The Moto X Play is also water-resistant; it may survive unexpected spills and rain but is nowhere as waterproof as the Moto G (3rd Generation), which can be dunked in water.

The size and build of the Moto X Play is very good. The device can be used in one hand and feels reassuringly sturdy. While using it to navigate in a car, it accidentally slid off and fell. There was a slight scratch at the top corner of the phone's glass, but it didn't crack or shatter. Sturdy, yes. But I will definitely still order a case to help protect it more.

Also powered by a Natural Language Processor for voice commands, and a Contextual Computing Processor for motion and geolocation, the Moto X Play is substantially powerful, enough for users slicing through various apps and functions. I used it heavily for Google Maps navigation and did notice it heating up a lot. The Moto X Play cooled off shortly after, but the heat is one thing I am keeping my eyes on.

The 21-megapixel camera is a huge feature and does make the Moto X Play one of the few devices that can shoot large and detailed photographs. Like in previous Moto X devices, a simple shake deploys the camera and an intuitive slide-out menu brings up a variety of controls. Having no manual control or support for RAW image files is a bit of a miss, especially for more serious photographers.

It has a larger display that is now using a more even-colored LCD technology instead of AMOLED. This isn't a jaw-droppingly stunning display, but it is clear, readable, reflection-free, and more energy-efficient, which plays into the device's overall superb battery life.

SPEED SAYS

I like the Motorola Moto X Play's measured balance of practicality and performance. The device's fast charging capabilities, great battery life, speedy performance, and impressive camera make it one of the best smartphones on almost every front. The sad reality is that the majority of potential customers might overlook the Moto X Play in favor of trendier brands or models and miss out on a truly great smartphone that could easily match many more expensive phones out there.

GEEK METER

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PRODUCT TEST NO. 1714

Impressive multimedia slate

SONY Xperia Z4 tablet (with Wi-Fi + LTE)

Review by **PAT CALICA**

THE **NUMBERS**

OS
Android 5.0 Lollipop
Display
10.1-inch 2560 x 1600
CPU
2GHz 64-bit octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 810
Memory
32GB internal storage, microSD up to 128GB, 3GB RAM
Camera
8.1MP rear, 5.1MP front; 1080p full HD video recording
Connectivity
Bluetooth 4.1, Wi-Fi, LTE, USB 2.0, microUSB
Price
P45,740

DIMENSIONS
167 x 254 x 6.1mm, 393g

Sony's Xperia Z4 tablet comes with stellar specs on paper and a hefty price tag. The question is: will this Android slate give a performance that is worth every peso of its whopping cost? Let's find out.

The Sony Z4 tablet's slim, dustproof, and waterproof design is sleek and solid. Never mind that it is so thin and light. This 10-incher feels solid in the hands. Its rounded corners and curved edges allow easy handling, while the slightly textured plastic back provides grip support.

There's a flap that protects both the microSD and microSIM slots. You have to get used to the audio jack and charging port having none, though. Using the Z4 tablet requires two hands most of the time: one to hold the device and the other to navigate through the tablet or adjust the volume and power buttons on the left-hand side.

Both cameras produce photos that are a bit washed out and grainy, but you'd enjoy playing around the camera features. The front camera is more than enough for your video calling requirements.

Mobile gaming is a strong suit of the Z4 tablet, encountering minimal hiccups during gameplay. Aside from the tablet's ability to function as a second screen or a remote control for the PlayStation 4, its graphics are sharp and smooth.

The colorful user-friendly overlay is full of useful customizable features such as organizing the app tray layout and launching a specific app as soon as you connect an accessory. The usual built-in Sony apps and features are there but aren't as cumbersome as in most tweaked OS designs.

Watching videos and viewing photos are a real treat on the Xperia Z4 tablet because the HD screen reproduces a wide range of colors that appear lifelike. The brightness is okay most of the time except for when viewing outdoors where you need to set the brightness level to maximum.

You'd think that the bezel is a little too thick and could use a little more trimming, but it really lets you hold any side without touching the screen and accidentally pressing buttons.

SPEED SAYS

If you're in the market for a premium Android tablet, the Sony Xperia Z4 tablet is a serious contender. The well-constructed design, powerful performance, and stunning display make it the ultimate device for any of your multimedia needs.

GEEK METER

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PRODUCT TEST NO. 1715

Sweet deal

TCL H8800 Curved Full HD TV

Review by **PAT CALICA**

THE **NUMBERS**

Screen
55-inch 1920 x 1080 Curved Full HD LED TV
OS
Android TV
Speaker
5-level Harman/ Kardon speakers with Dolby Plus
Connectivity
3 x HDMI, 2 x USB 2.0, 1 x VGA, Wi-Fi, LAN port
Power
AC 100-240V, 50/60Hz
Accessories
Remote
Price
P55,595

DIMENSIONS
755 x 1245 x 250mm, 20kg (w/ stand)

If this is the only time you are hearing of the company, you might be surprised to learn that TCL is one of the world's bigger makers of TVs. Testing their latest Curved Full HD TV, however, shows that TCL has every right to play alongside the more popular television brands. Plus, it has the potential to dominate the Philippine market with its bang-for-buck specs and features.

The H8800's premium appeal comes from the thin metallic stands and narrow bezels. This design gives the television the illusion of floating in air when placed on a tabletop. Despite that impression, this TCL Curved TV looks solid and sturdy.

Initially, you might need to tweak the sharpness, brightness, and contrast settings to get your desired picture quality. 4K loops look quite good. The closer you are to the screen, the better 4K viewing.

Powering on gives a five-second delay, but after that, the experience is relatively smooth and hitch-free. The interface is neat and easy to follow, taking just a few minutes to get the hang of it. Hopefully, TCL expands its library of apps to provide additional functions for the television.

All the ports are cramped on one side at the back of the television. The TCL H8800 supports a great deal of file types, so you can definitely enjoy binge-watching on it.

Setting up the TV is fairly easy. You just need to attach the stand to the screen itself and plug things in. The initial setup is fast, too, requiring few choices from the user. But given its size, the television is heavy, so you might need an extra pair of hands to move it around.

The curve of the screen is subtle, but it's there. Lower-resolution videos tend to show slightly curved in the picture, but HD content and above are good to go. What you'll be missing is the upscaling technology that other curved UHD TVs have.

The remote is a standard infrared model with all the usual busy keys. There are dedicated buttons for popular features such as YouTube. A few buttons are redundant in functions.

Hiding behind the massive curved screen is a top-of-the-line speaker system, which provides a loud, rich sound. There's no need for you to adjust the volume to maximum because the audio is quite clear and good at low levels.

SPEED SAYS

The TCL H8800 Curved Full HD TV is quite a bargain if you're planning to upgrade your entertainment arsenal. It boasts up-to-date television technology and design while still maintaining a reasonable price tag.

GEEK METER

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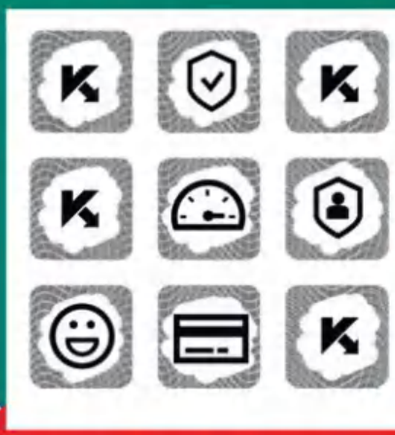

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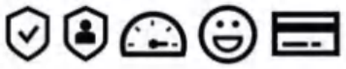

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   - Key-in the **PROMO CODE** indicated in the scratch card
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   - *Winning card of the **Scratch the Power of Protection** logos will also received notification on the claiming of prizes.
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5. Deadline of registration for the raffle shall be on December 10, 2015 at 10:00PM. Late registration of entries will be disqualified.
6. **Electronic raffle draw** will be held on December 18, 2015 at iSecure Networks, Incorporated office, located at Unit D, 189 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City.
7. Winners whose name are drawn more than once during the particular draw shall be awarded with prize of the higher value.
8. Winners for the raffle draw will be notified through registered mail on how to claim their prizes.
9. To claim the prize, winners must present any valid Government issued Identification Card with the promotional scratch card.
10. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from the receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of iSecure Networks, Incorporated with prior DTI approval.
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12. Tax of Prizes will be shouldered by iSecure Networks, Inc.

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PRODUCT TEST NO. 1716

Stay charged

ENERPAD Laptop Power Bank

THE **NUMBERS**

OS
Mac, iOS
Input
85W
Price
P8,800

Review by **MELAI BALITAAN**

If there is anything you would like to add to that grown-up Christmas list, the enerpad Laptop Power Bank is probably one of the best options in the market.

Samyang Technology Co., Ltd created the enerpad for people looking for a mighty portable charging station that is not only made for smartphones and tablets, but can also power up laptops and other electronic products.

This great feature is made possible by the AC outlet—similar to the standard wall outlet you have at home or in the office—built directly in this power bank.There are also two 5V 2.4A USB ports available, through which you can simultaneously charge up to two devices at a much faster rate.

Speaking of fast, this high-capacity power bank holds a massive 18000mAh of juice that fully recharges your device in just about three hours. It is a really impressive product perfect for those who are always on the go.

SPEED SAYS

I find the size and weight of the enerpad Laptop Power Bank a bit of a disadvantage. It measures almost the same size as most tablets. But if you have more space and don't mind adding another 610g of weight to your luggage, then having one is well worth it.

GEEK METER

PRODUCT TEST NO. 1717

Aquarific

BOOMPODS Aquapod

THE **NUMBERS**

Size
89mm diameter
Connectivity
Bluetooth 4.0
Output
3W
Price
P3,300

Review by **JOHN SOSMEÑA**

Light, compact, and blasts good quality sound wherever you are, the Boompods Aquapod is a great companion that you won't leave home without. I had the pleasure of taking it to the beach and countryside, and I could say that I didn't want to let it go.

I had the speakers lie safely, but very near both the beach and the pool. Admittedly, it was loads more fun to have your music follow you, especially when you're soaked at sea. I was sometimes careless, holding it with wet hands, but little drops of water were no match for its IPX7 rating.

For such a small piece of hardware, I am very pleased with its output. Bass-heavy songs won't do much on speakers as small as this, but your alternative and acoustic genres are going to be just fine.

I find full volume notifications—which alert me whenever I turn the speaker on or off, or connect to it via Bluetooth—a little too much. That's okay when using the Aquapod outdoors, but in an office or a quiet room, the notification can be irritating

The Bluetooth connection exceeds my expectations. Music flows out smoothly even at 10 (sometimes 12) meters from the source, which means that walking around with the Aquapod is never a problem.

SPEED SAYS

A small companion that packs a lot of firepower, the Boompods Aquapod is a great thing to have around whenever you need a mood booster for yourself or for the rest of the group.

GEEK METER

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PRODUCT TEST NO. 1718

Bigger and bolder

HYUNDAI Tucson 2.0 L 6AT 4WD

Review by **MIKE POTENCIANO**

THE NUMBERS

Engine
2.0-liter R CRDi eVGT
Transmission
6-speed Automatic Transaxle + Shiftronix
Power
184hp @ 4,000rpm
Torque
402Nm @ 1,750-2,750rpm
Suspension
MacPherson strut front, Rear – Multi Link Rear Suspension with Gas type Shock Absorbers
Brakes
Ventilated disc front with Floating Calipers, solid disc rear with floating calipers; Power Assisted System with ABS&EBD
Price
P1,918,000

DIMENSIONS
4475 x 1850 x 1660mm, 2,170kg

The 3rd-generation Hyundai Tucson is a fairly large crossover, but looks very agile and dynamic thanks to its Fluidic Sculpture 2.0 design language. Now larger in almost every dimension compared to its predecessor, the new Tucson has the extra benefit of providing more room for passengers and cargo.

The power is wanting when you try to overtake, so don't expect neck-snapping performance especially if you have a fully loaded car. You'll need to adjust your timing when you're driving in normal mode; sports mode feels a little better.

Handling is superb. The engineers have designed the suspension well—compliant and not too hard. Aided by Hyundai's advanced traction cornering control system, the Tucson handles corners very well with less body roll than before.

Even with a bigger body, the smallish Hyundai diesel engine doesn't show any strain when driven in the city. The Tucson's cruising RPM at 100kph is only 1,700, which is an indication that the Tucson will do well on the highway.

The Smart Tailgate System is a feature that I found very useful. It opens the trunk when it senses that you've been standing there for at least three seconds—as long as the proximity smart key is with you. This is helpful when you have grocery bags and you can't reach for the key or the trunk opener.

The new 6-speed automatic transmission glides through the gears seamlessly. The ratios are great—the engine can pull well in start/stop traffic and cruise effortlessly on the highway.

The rear sports rectangular chrome exhaust tips, a more aggressive rear apron, LED rear combination lights, and a reflector to make you more visible, especially in bad weather.

The aggressive front is courtesy of the massive hexagonal grille and LED headlamps, making the Tucson look fast even when it's standing still. The LED projection type headlamps with static bending turn in the direction of the steering wheel, so you get good visibility all the time. Integrated LED daytime running lights are found on the contoured bumpers.

With a fairly sizable body, the Tucson is hard to tell apart from the Santa Fe especially from the side and back views. The barely noticeable clues are the two-tone waistline molding and squarish wheel arches, which make the compact SUV look sporty and rugged.

SPEED SAYS

The all-new Hyundai Tucson is a step up from the previous generation and boasts of great handling, superb space, and outstanding interiors to match its handsome exterior. If the diesel engine were more powerful, you'd probably be willing to overlook the price and consider this a perfect compact SUV.

GEEK METER

INTERIOR

1 The driver's seat can be adjusted several ways and even features lumbar support. It is firm enough to make you feel the curves during spirited driving. The rear seats fold 60:40 or completely to make more room for cargo. A whole mountain bike, completely assembled, can fit inside!

2 In keeping with the trend, Hyundai installed a 4.2" touchscreen to display all the information you need. There are steering wheel-mounted controls, USB, aux, and Bluetooth connectivity, and a great-sounding audio system (six speakers).

3 The panoramic sunroof that stretches from the front to rear pillars adds to the airiness and spaciousness of the interior.

4 The bigger body makes for a more spacious interior: more headroom, more leg space at the back, and easier ingress.

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PRODUCT TEST NO. 1719

Rebirth of a nameplate

HONDA HR-V 1.8 E

Review by KATRINA RIVERE-DIGA

THE **NUMBERS**

Engine
1.8-liter SOHC i-VTEC
Transmission
Earth Dreams Technology CVT
Power
139hp @ 6,500rpm
Torque
172Nm @ 4,300rpm
Suspension
MacPherson with stabilizer front, axle-type rear
Tires
215/55 R17
Brakes
Ventilated discs (front), solid discs (rear), electric parking brake
Safety
ABS with EBD, airbags (driver and front passenger), auto brake hold, vehicle stability assist, hill start assist, emergency stop signal
Price
P1,230,000

DIMENSIONS
4284 x 1772 x 1605mm, 1,263kg

I was in high school when Honda released the first-generation HR-V in the late '90s. I remember seeing it for the first time on the road and thinking how a boxy vehicle looked so funky in a sea of curvy Corollas and Lancers. It didn't fare too well globally though, so Honda decided to pull the plug on the model in 2006.

But now it's back—and with impeccable timing at that, as compact SUVs (or crossovers) are gaining market share judging by the number of these types of vehicles on the road and in parking lots. This time, Honda has given the HR-V a curvaceous and chiseled body in keeping with the current trend.

The profile of the HR-V is coupe-like, with its sloping roof that tapers down at the back, and its rear door handles tucked away in the C pillars. Small kids will have a hard time reaching the rear door handle.

The front end looks sporty with the headlights, grille, and radiator intake all forming one continuous shape. At the back, there's a shapely tailgate with nice-looking taillights.

In light traffic with an average speed of 25kph and with Econ mode on, I got around 9.5kpL. At a slower pace—around 15-18kph, which is the norm in Metro Manila traffic lately—the HR-V did 8kpL.

Driving 80kph on the highway with five adults on board and four overnight bags, the HR-V registered between 9.5 and 10kpL. Go light and you'll get more kilometers for your cash.

I tested the HR-V in both highway and city driving, and found the engine peppy and smooth. Ride is comfortable, but errs on the side of being firm. Noise in the cabin is kept to a minimum.

SPEED SAYS

The 2nd-generation HR-V has a lot going for it, including sporty looks, good driving dynamics, connectivity, and a configurable cabin space. Something tells me it won't be suffering the same fate as its older sibling.

GEEK METER

INTERIOR

1 The infotainment and climate control are touch-operated and intuitive, but may be frustrating for those who still prefer dials and knobs.

2 If connectivity is a big thing for you, then the HR-V 1.8 E doesn't disappoint with its USB and HDMI inputs (no 3.5mm aux-in), as well as smart mirroring, Bluetooth, and iPod and iPhone connectivity. However, you'll have to put in some extra effort to access the ports and lighter plugs at the bottom of the center stack.

3 The dashboard is made of soft touch plastic and there's a long row of vents running across the dash in front of the right-seat passenger. The soft cloth covering the upper door panels don't sit well with me as I find it a bit kitschy.

4 Settling into the driver's seat, I noticed that it isn't as high as other crossovers. Thankfully, vertically challenged drivers who want a more commanding view of the road can adjust the seat's height. The fabric seats of this variant are comfortable all around. There's just enough space in the boot for two weeks' worth of groceries, and the rear bench—which comfortably seats three—can be configured so you can accommodate more cargo.

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PRODUCT TEST NO. 1720

Made for the city

YAMAHA Tricity

Review by MIKE POTENCIANO

THE **NUMBERS**

Engine
125cc 4-stroke single-cylinder fuel-injected SOHC
Transmission
CVT automatic
Power
11hp @ 9,000rpm
Torque
10.4Nm @ 5,500rpm
Price
P146,000

DIMENSIONS
1905 x 1215 x 735mm, 152kg

What bike would you make if you were to move people inside the super busy metropolis? For Yamaha, it would be a three-wheeler commuter bike called the Yamaha Tricity.

The ultra modern and unique bike makes a definite statement that Yamaha has the knowledge and engineering prowess to make such a motorcycle and offer an alternative in the very competitive 125cc city traveler bike segment. And what a display it is.

The overall weight is just too much for the small engine to carry. When you gas it, the bike takes some time to get going and produces a lot of engine noise, which indicates that it is working hard. When you get going, better maintain the momentum because it will be hard to wind it up again. The engine sounds good once it is moving, and I know there is power in it if packaged in a lighter chassis.

The controls on the handlebar are well marked and easy to operate. It is not too wide and just right for our tight roads. The LCD panel display is easy to check for the information a rider needs like the speedometer, tachometer, and other items.

The lights look a little dated but the LED position lights make up for this. I really like how they designed the front fairing. The rider is protected with a good full-length wind visor that works. Be prepared for a lot of stares and to answer a lot of questions when you park.

The seat looks massive but it is quite easy to climb onto with the low floorboard. It is also soft enough to absorb the bumps and ripples along the road. The seating position is upright, which is good for city riding.

The unified brakes perform quite good when you pull in the rear brake lever. The Tricity also has a separate front lever for the front brakes. I didn't feel any brake fade when I did a lot of hard braking with it.

The front is the most technically intriguing and pleasantly gorgeous design. With two front wheels, twin ventilated discs, and four units of telescopic forks all packaged in a full fairing bike, you get the impression that the Yamaha Tricity is something special. It's nice to see how the front tires cantilever when turning. But be careful on some pot holes because the front tires tend to get pulled in them, which can be unnerving for new riders.

It is the rear tire that gets overpowered and slides on hard turns near the speed limit. Be prepared for this when you ride the Tricity up mountain roads.

SPEED SAYS

The Yamaha Tricity catches the attention of those who value innovation and uniqueness. The high price, however, could be quite restrictive, and the engine could use an upgrade.

GEEK METER

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Baller bliss

NBA 2K16

Review by **ERIK PAOLO ESCUETA**

VITAL STATS

Platforms
PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Windows
Developer
Visual Concepts
Publisher
2K Sports
No. of Players
1-4 Players Local Multiplayer, 1-10 Players Online Multiplayer
Official Site
https://www.2k.com/games/nba-2k16

PlayStation 4 REVIEWED

Another NBA season, another *NBA 2K* series release—and fortunately this year's version on current-gen consoles isn't just a simple rerun with a fresh coat of paint on top. *NBA 2K16* boasts a lot of improvements to the player models and physics, as well as numerous enhancements and tweaks to its plentiful game modes.

Naturally, even with its many steps forward, *NBA 2K16* stumbles a few steps back particularly when it comes to online play, but it is still arguably the best experience yet for virtual ballers everywhere.

SMOOTH OPERATOR

The core gameplay of *NBA 2K16* is still as fluid and natural to control, pulling off fundamentals like shots, drives, and dribble moves is an intuitively simple task without even needing to consult the in-game guide. But if you're a returning veteran, you might still want to take a glance at the in-game guide as the advanced controls have been revised this round.

For example, hitting Triangle on offense no longer toggles posting up. Instead, you'll have to hold down L2 to go into—and release it to go out of—the post-up. Another instance is passing the ball, where Triangle and Circle now do an overhead and bounce pass, respectively. But regardless of whether you're a rookie or vet to the series, it really won't take long for anyone to get used to the controls since they're deceptively simple to grasp.

It begs to mention that action timings have received some slight adjustments, mostly because of the

improved player animations and physics. For example, shots now are more reflective of a player's shooting style, and arm wingspan has greater impact on getting a rebound or making a block. While there are still times when ball physics gets buggy and results in some strange fouls or no-calls, the tweaks do contribute overall to a more realistic experience—to the point where player spacing becomes greatly significant in making successful plays.

DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THE BALL

When it comes to in-game player and team management, it's a bit of a mixed bag. The options on hand are still plentiful and offer a lot of nuances to the coaching aspect. But the interface in on-the-fly playmaking and substitution menus is just cumbersome to use in practice. There's a lot of wasteful page-flipping between the onscreen prompts that it starts to take your attention away from the court way too much to be of any use in actual play.

At least in terms of presentation, the game looks and moves fantastic. Players are excruciatingly detailed—from their likenesses with dynamic facial expressions down to their shoes. Motion is also natural without looking too stiff, at least on the court. Off-court characters like the commentators and interviewers are still ridiculously robotic, which is par for the course.

The experience also closely mimics an actual game broadcast thanks to interspersed cutscenes showing team huddles and coach/player interviews, all fully voiced to boot. Admittedly, the voiceovers do sometimes sound a bit stiff, and the expressive facial animations are seldom as lifelike as intended, but you have to admire the effort.

HOOP LIFE

One of *NBA 2K16*'s more hyped game modes is the updated MyCareer, which now sports a full-fledged story mode that lands your MyPlayer custom character in the role of Frequency Vibrations—a young high school baller with dreams of making it big in the NBA.

It's a typical slice-of-life TV drama that's too ambitious for its own good, with a buildup that ends too quickly as you enter your second season. On the bright side, the career management simulator that comes after has worthwhile depth to it.

The script is heavily hammy (to be expected with a name like Frequency Vibrations), with some tersely exaggerated dialogue exchanges that are more amateur hour than professionally written. It's a potential step to the right direction, but the approach has a long way to go.

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

This is not to say that *NBA 2K16* doesn't have much to offer in terms of pure basketball management experience. You can take the reins of your NBA team as a general manager in MyGM, which offers everything (and the kitchen sink) when it comes to options. From salaries and minutes to arena facilities, you have control over almost every aspect relevant to leading your team to the NBA championship, including changing cities. If you want to take your GM skills online, MyLeague lets you prove who the better basketball executive is among your friends.

Another metagame management on offer is the returning MyTeam mode, where you build your ultimate NBA team from collectible cards to play against other teams. It's quite deep on its own, and makes good use of the in-game VC currency with its own auction house.

Speaking of VC, the currency is more ingrained than ever if you want to fully customize your MyPlayer and MyCourt playground, and especially if you plan to take your player to other game modes like the 2K Pro-Am ranked crew league or the casual MyPark streetball courts. The game is a bit stingy in doling it out though, so don't be surprised if it takes a long time to amass you fortune—unless you buy some with real money, that is.

TECHNICAL FOUL

The game's online aspect has been mentioned a couple of times by now, and for the most part, it is serviceable. Diversity is definitely not an issue with so many online modes available aside from the usual matchups.

But the real problem has to do with connectivity. Even on good internet speeds, lag still rears its ugly head, regardless of whether you're playing full 5-on-5 in packed arenas or you're playing a simple 2-on-2 streetball. It doesn't get too bad that the game becomes unplayable, but it's still a hassle to deal with.

PROS

- updated controls more natural and intuitive to use
- enhanced graphics and physics add more realism to gameplay
- presentation closely resembles actual NBA game broadcasts
- diverse number of deep game modes for both single and multiplayer

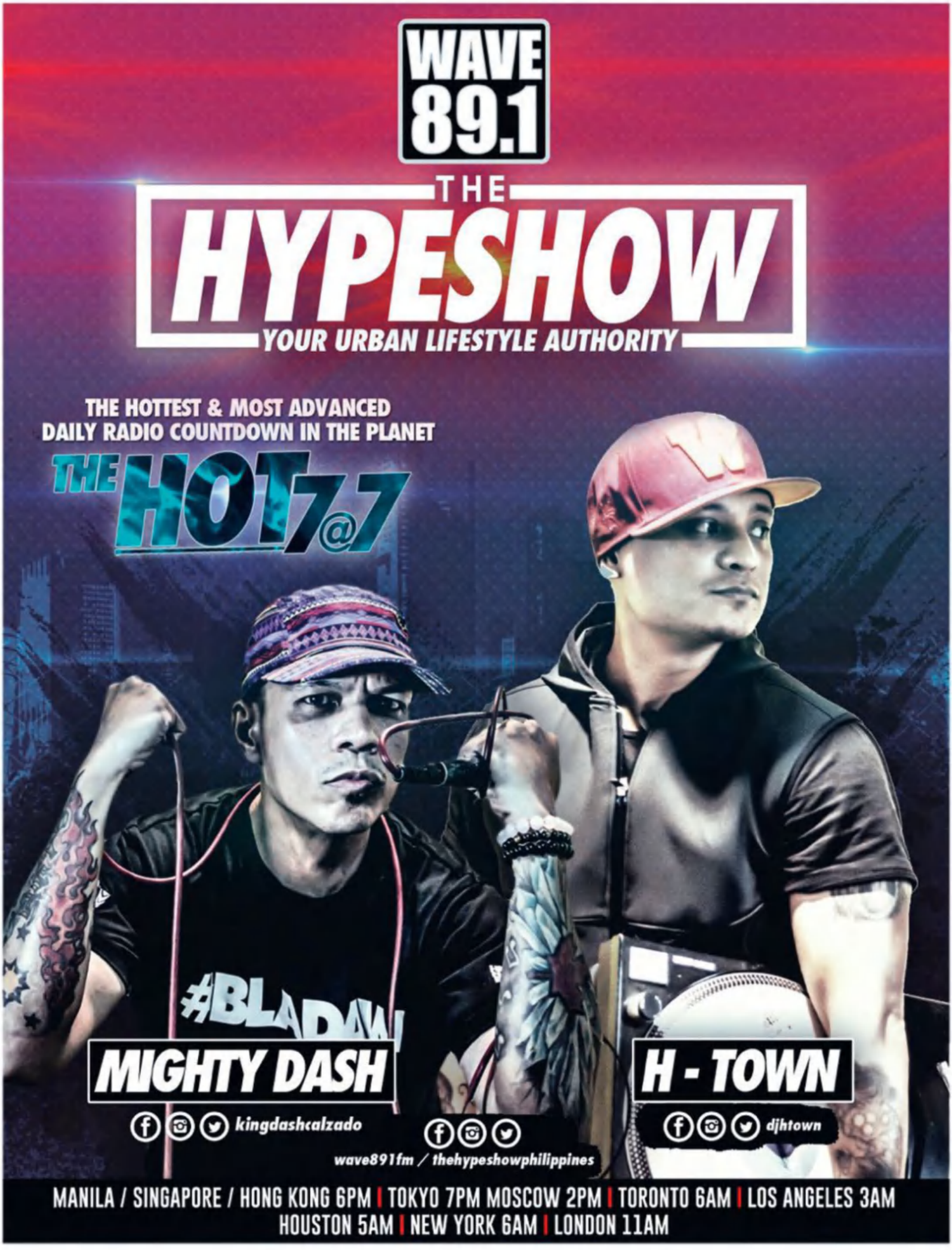
CONS

- on-the-fly coaching options difficult to use compared to during timeouts
- MyCareer storyline script and plot could be longer and more realistic
- online connectivity is hardly lag-free even on decent internet speeds
- VC currency seems to be rewarded out in smaller amounts than ever before

SPEED SAYS

NBA 2K16 delivers more than expected for an annual release that could have just slapped a new cover on last year's version and called it a day. The updates and enhancements definitely deliver a deep and well-rounded package, even though there is still a lot of room for improvement. Take note, however, that the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360 versions lack these improvements, and are essentially the same as last year's product albeit with a shiny coat of paint. So, if you want to experience *NBA 2K16* at its best, it might be time to upgrade to better hardware.

GEEK METER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HOUSTON 5AM | NEW YORK 6AM | LONDON 11AM

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

2015

Oh, what fun it is to give!

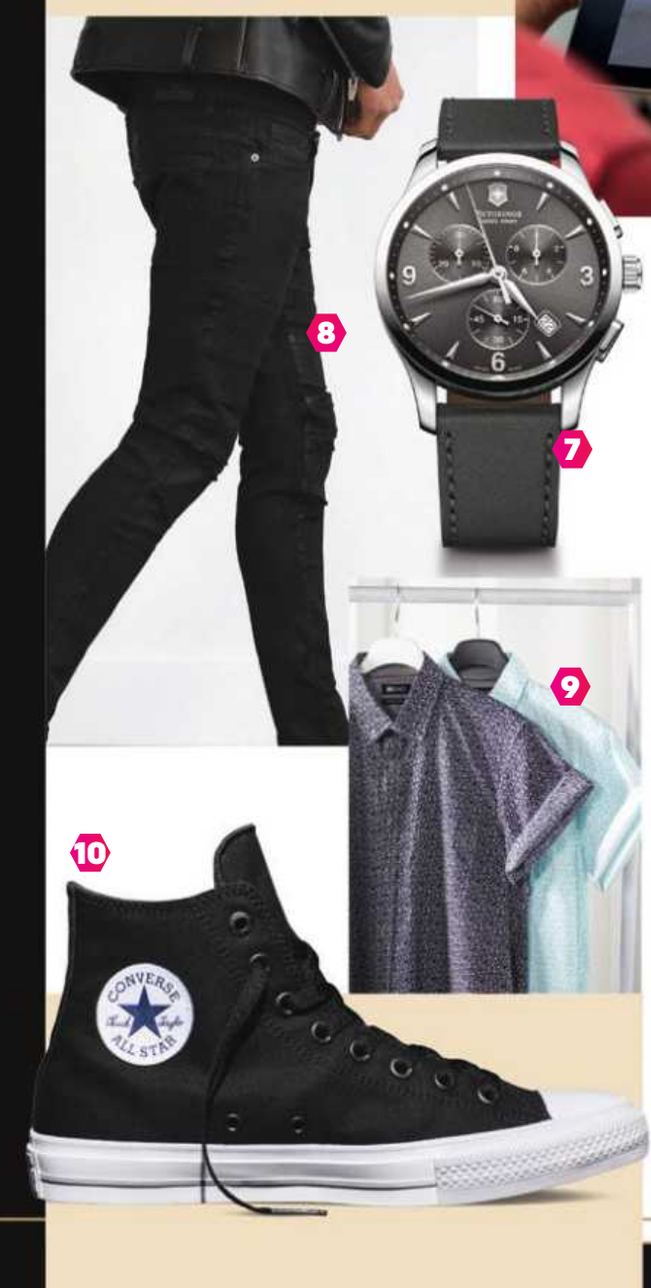
Has the holiday season snuck up on you again this year? Well, you're not alone. If you still haven't done much shopping for the special people in your life, our Holiday Gift Guide might just save your sanity.

Because we know that the malls are zoos and parking spaces are as rare as snow in the Philippines during this time of the year, we put together this Gift Guide to make looking for the perfect gift a wee bit easier. (Unfortunately, we can't do anything about the awful traffic you'll have to endure. Maybe you should consider online shopping.)

We've got gift ideas for the different people in your life—your supermom, handyman dad, geeky girlfriend, gearhead boyfriend, adventurous brother, globetrotting sister, business-minded boss, and artistic buddy. We even have gift suggestions for the person who has everything.

So, stop procrastinating, start flipping the pages, and go shopping! Because nothing says "Merry Christmas" more than a well-thought-out gift.

Artistic buddy



No matter how eccentric he can be, you'd never trade your artistic friend for the world. His passion for creating and addiction to aesthetics keep your life interesting and colorful. This holiday season, help your friend upgrade his art toolbox with these gifts.

With an improved 12MP iSight camera that takes 4K videos and a 5MP FaceTime HD camera, the (1)**Apple iPhone 6s Plus** (starts at $749) can help your friend create share-worthy multimedia content shown on the vibrant Retina HD Display.

The (2)**Apple iPad Pro**'s (starts at $799) 12.9-inch screen is the coolest canvas for your friend and the bundled **Apple Pencil** is his perfect brush.

The (3)**LC-A Minitar-1 Art lenses** ($349), which is compatible with the Leica M mount, will boost his creative shots with its precise focusing and distinct vignetting.

The (4)**Manfrotto Klyp+** ($25) photography-enhancer case protects an iPhone 6 or 6 Plus from bumps and knocks, and supports dedicated Klyp+ accessories such as Manfrotto lenses, LED light, and tripod.

A Bluetooth speaker with customizable lights, the (5)**EZY Neon** (P4,500) fits whatever creative mood your friend is in, with lights pulsating to the beat of the music.

Be it a photograph or a digital art, make sure the actual artwork gives justice to the one on the screen by printing with the (6)**Epson Inkjet Photo L800** (P13,800).

Because time flies so fast when you're swamped with ideas, let the (7)**Victorinox Alliance Mechanical watch** give him a constant reminder.

These (8)**Zara Man jeans with cut seams** (P2,995) provide an offbeat look that perfectly reflects your friend's innovative personality.

He can stay preppy with the (9)**Memo short sleeved shirt with floral print** (P999).

Because a pair of Chucks is a badge of creativity and self-expression, your buddy can draw or paint on the (10)**Converse Chuck Taylor All Star II** (P3,990) and stay cool and comfortable on the street.

Words **PAT CALICA**

Work around the workaholic

Words **ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN**

Remind your multitasking mom that you think of her well-being while she ravages through countless paperwork, endless meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and this year's Christmas decorations with these gifts, which complement her proactive, multitasking lifestyle.

Reward her with a handy office tool in the 12.5-inch dual-core Intel Core M-5Y71-powered (1)**ASUS Transformer Book T300 Chi** (4GB RAM: P39,995-5Y10; 8GB RAM: P46,995), which can keep her company during late night desk work and doubles as a tablet that she can take to the boardroom.

Move her corporate mover heart with the S Pen-equipped (2)**Samsung GALAXY Note5** (P36,990), which allows her to take down precise notes on the 5.7-inch Quad HD Super AMOLED screen.

Give your mom the assurance of digital security with the (3)**WD My Passport Ultra** (500GB: P3,390; 1TB: P4,290; 2TB: P7,290), which acts as a file organizer and allows high-speed file transfer via USB 3.0.

Remind your mom to unwind every now and then with the help of the (4)**Muse** ($299) brain sensing headband, which plays meditation tunes and alerts whenever the mind begins to wander.

A cup of coffee is always a good jump starter, so offer her some cup of love from the (5)**Black & Decker DCM600 Coffee Maker** (P3,795).

Throw in the dark gray mélange (6)**H&M Fitted Jacket** (P1,690) to your mom's wardrobe to add elegance that demands attention and respect.

A busy lifestyle calls for a relaxed fashion style, which she can have wearing a (7)**Uniqlo Women Cotton Twill Long Sleeve Shirt** (P1,490).

Get her the (8)**Uniqlo Women Ankle Length Pants** (P1,490) because a serious but comfortable pair of black pants can never go wrong.

She can strut the long office aisles with a commanding yet chic appeal toting the (9)**Mango Pebbled Shopper Bag** (P1,950).

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2015

Trade master's arsenal

Your handyman slash jack-of-all-trades dad needs tools that can keep up with his rugged, hands-on lifestyle. This holiday season, treat him to the best garb and gear ready to withstand the wear and tear.

Packed with the latest A9 chip and iOS 9, the (1)**Apple iPhone 6s** (16GB: $199; 64GB: $299; 128GB: $399) can handle all-around utility tasks with ease and comes ready to shoot fire with an improved 12MP camera and 4K video recording capability.

Secure his new iPhone with the (2)**Otterbox Defender Series for iPhone 6s** ($59.99), which comes with a triple-layer defense, screen protection, and port covers.

Replace your dad's rusty tool kit with the (3)**Ace Toolbox 18.5 (Steel)** (P1,299.75), which can house all his cluttered repair tools.

The (4)**MB Quart QUB Three Bluetooth speakers** (P7,000) can kill your dad's boredom in between projects by blasting his favorite tunes for 10 hours straight.

Your prepper dad can survive any condition and is always up for adventure, just like the 1080p (5)**Garmin Virb X** ($299) action camera with a framerate of 60fps and water resistance of up to 50m.

Gift your dad the nature-inspired (6)**National Geographic NG2344 Earth Explorer Small shoulder bag** (P2,950) with solid brass buckles for his outdoor adventures.

He will walk like a comfortable travel junkie in the (7)**Dockers Alpha Khaki cargo pants**, which keep all his essentials close to the body.

With the (8)**Birkenstock Ramses** (P5,250) guiding his steps, no voyage will seem too hard to conquer as the sandals balance comfort and style.

Your tough dad needs a tough timepiece, and what better watch to buy for him than the water-, temperature-, and shock-resistant (9)**Victorinox I.N.O.X.** (P27,500)?

Block the sun from tampering your dad's adventurous spirit with the bronze polarized (10)**Oakley Holbrook** (P9,695) with matte black frames and black IR lenses.

Words **ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN**

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2015

Extreme adventurer

Words **JOHN SOSMEÑA**

Do you hardly see your brother because he's always busy jumping out of a plane or paddleboarding in the Pacific? Get him presents that will support his lifestyle and make him remember you, his first adventure buddy.

The (1)**Sony XPERIA C5 Ultra** (P17,990), equipped with front *and* back 13MP cameras, has everything he needs to take stunning photos from any angle.

With the water-resistant (2)**GoPro Hero4 Session** (P20,990), he can show you his impressive moves on the waves when he gets back home.

Get your brother the water- and shock-resistant (3)**AirborneTech ToughRock 10000mAh powerbank** (P3,999), which can trek and swim with him any day.

The shock- and water-resistant (4)**Casio G-Shock MRG-G1000B** (P149,995) with its GPS HYBRID wave ceptor and dual dial world time will remind him when it's time to call the mother ship.

Save him from skin disease and body odor with the (5)**Under Armour UA HeatGear Armor Short Sleeve**'s (P1,595) UPF+30 sun protection, stretch-mesh underarm panels, and anti-odor technology.

With a pair of (6)**Under Armour UA HIIT Woven Shorts** (P2,395), he can move freely thanks to its 4-way stretch fabric and elastic waistband.

When he needs to prepare his body for the rigors of adventure, the (7)**adidas Tape Labels Superstar Track Jacket** (P3,495) will keep him sweating but stylish.

Support his everyday running with the (8)**Newton Men's Fate Neutral Core Trainers** (P8,995) complete with a heel lace lock, 5-lug P.O.P. 2 platform, and a durable outsole.

If he has the 28L (9)**The North Face Borealis Backpack** (P6,490) with padded compartments and removable waist belt, his 15-inch laptop and other electronics should stay safe despite his rugged lifestyle.

Globetrotting sister

She basically lives on the road, sleeps at airports, and spends more time in places other than her own. Your wandering sibling brings home nifty souvenirs, mouthwatering delicacies, and grand stories of adventure. Give back through any of these products that will make the journey easier for your travel expert sister.

With the (1)**ASUS ZenFone Selfie** (P11,995), your sister can easily take wide selfies and include the beautiful landscape or historical architecture in the background.

The 10-inch (2)**Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2**'s (P19,999) Stand mode will let her watch movies inflight, while the Tilt mode is perfect when browsing social media apps or playing mobile games.

Compact, simple to use, and yields quality images, the (3)**Fujifilm X-T10** (P40,990 body only) promises to be her go-to snapper in every photo opportunity she'll find on her trip.

Bring the party anywhere in the world with the foldable, lightweight, and Bluetooth-capable (4)**Beats Solo2 Wireless** (P19,000) headphones.

Juice up a tablet, phone, and another device all at the same time using the three USB ports of the (5)**Zolt charger Plus** ($99.99).

Have your sis jot down her random thoughts and ideas on the leather-bound (6)**Surat Travel journal** (P950).

She can carry with her the (7)**H&M Wool-blend biker jacket** (P2,990) in case she lands on a freezing continent.

With the (8)**Manfrotto Off Road backpack**'s storage compartments, carrying and organizing her travel gear and personal belongings is as easy as 1-2-3.

Give your dear sister the gift of time in the form of the (9)**Fossil Perfect Boyfriend CE1089** watch, sporting an almond leather strap with rose gold dial.

Your sister walks a lot, discovering the nooks of the places she visits, so a pair of (10)**Suelas Andorra foldable loafers** (P1,200) will do her soles good.

She can secure her cash, hotel card, and important identifications inside the water-resistant (11)**Halo Ivor** (P295) with neck strap.

Words **PAT CALICA**

Geeky girlfriend

Words **ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN**

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If you're competing for your girlfriend's attention with video games, animated shorts, and graphic novels, here's one way to win her over: fuel her geeky passion. These gadgets could make her extra geeky, but she'll surely love you more for your support.

Treat her to an (1)**LG G4 Stylus** (P10,990), which sports a chic curved form, 1.4GHz octa-core processor, and a 5.7-inch HD screen so you can watch anime together.

Gift her the easy-to-carry (2)**Lenovo Yoga 500** (starts at P28,495) powered by a 2.4GHz Intel Core i7-5550U dual-core processor coupled with 8GB RAM to match her serious gaming and video processing skills.

A new handy storage device like the (3)**Samsung SSD T1** (500GB: $300; 1TB: $600) is perfect for transferring files at high speed and keeping them secure for posterity.

As she frequents fan signs and movie promotions, the lightweight (4)**Fujifilm X-A2** (starts at P27,990) has her back covered with its 16MP APS-C CMOS sensor and a 175-degree tilting LCD.

She'll never run out of content to watch with an (5)**iFlix subscription** (P129/month), now offering over 11,000 hours of on-the-go content playable on up to five devices.

Serenade her ears with hi-res content from the (6)**Audio-Technica ATH-MSR7** (P13,799) headphones with a frequency range of 5 to 40,000Hz.

Let her brainy flag fly with the (7)**Zara Jewelled T-shirt** (P995), which adds a fun touch to her look.

Pair her shirt with the relaxed yet stylish (8)**Uniqlo Women Denim Slouch Jeans** (P2,490) because she can't be bothered with unnecessary inconvenience.

The (9)**Fossil Small Flag Inca Gold bag** ($279) is a fusion of sophistication and casual ruggedness that is perfect for her laidback lifestyle.

The ultimate geeky trademark: a thick framed glasses, just like the (10)**Uniqlo Women Wellington Clear Sunglasses** (P790), which comes with UV protection and an anti-glare coating.

Gearhead boyfriend

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2015

You may complain that your partner has more time for his car than for you—but you still love him dearly, right? This holiday season show him you understand and support his affinity for automotive. Giftwrap the gear he might need in his man cave *aka* the garage.

The genuine leather back cover of the (1)**LG G4 leather variant** (P32,990) goes well with the leather seats of his car.

When you can't join him for a drive, the (2)**Transcend DrivePro 200** (P6,950) can be his other set of eyes—and yours, too.

Upgrade his dashboard with the (3)**Pioneer AVH-175DVD multimedia receiver** (P12,500), featuring a 6.2-inch LCD where he can view audio-video content from CDs, DVDs, and USB devices.

The stainless steel (4)**Leatherman Tread Multitool bracelet** ($165) is stylish as it is functional, as each link is actually a tread tool, including Allen wrenches, screwdrivers, and box wrenches.

Add to your boyfriend's tool box the (5)**Stanley Socket set** (P2,654.75), which offers 24 pieces of high-quality steel sockets and extensions to help tackle tough nuts and bolts.

Off with the dirt on the car floor and the trash hidden under the seats with the compact and powerful (6)**Philips FC6145 handheld vacuum cleaner** (P8,990) as a gift.

So that your boyfriend will remember you every time he turns the wheel, strap on his wrist the (7)**Wenger Attitude Day Date watch** (P7,600), which features a stainless steel case and a quartz movement.

Let the (8)**Mango Man leather biker jacket** (P12,950) give him warmth during a cold night drive.

Keep him comfy in the (9)**Mango Man printed text shirt** (P1,250) during one of your road trips.

The rugged and durable (10)**Timberland Chocorua Trail waterproof hiking boots** ($140) are ready for any adventure.

Words **PAT CALICA**

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2015

Deserving mentor

Words **JOHN SOSMEÑA**

Having good rapport with the boss is never a bad thing, and when your mentor is both good at his work and with his people, he deserves one of these treats.

Help manage his many business affairs with a (1)**BlackBerry Passport** (P35,790), which features a 4.5-inch square display, a 30-hour battery life, and everything corporately good about a BlackBerry.

The Microsoft Surface Pro 4 has only started shipping out, so if you missed the preorder period, might as well go to the store now and buy the Intel-powered (2)**Microsoft Surface Pro 3** (P36,000), which puts the computing prowess of a laptop in a 10.8-inch tablet form factor.

The (3)**WD My Cloud Mirror (Gen 2)** (4TB:P15,990; 6TB:P20,990; 8TB:P25,990) personal storage ensures that his files are kept safe and accessible anytime he needs them thanks to the Mirror Mode and My Cloud Mobile features.

The (4)**Delsey Starcktrip Beijinck Large Size Document Holder** (P9,390) keeps documents and gadgets secured under water-repellant cloth with an anti-stain treatment.

Short business trips should be stress-free with the 5)**Victorinox Spectra 2.0 Dual-Access Global Carry-On** (starts at P18,490) made of lightweight, break-resistant Bayer polycarbonate and built with a Swiss Tracker Bag Tracking Program.

The (6)**TW Steel Limited Edition 'Apex' Canteen timepiece** (P110,000) has 120 1.1mm and 267 1.5mm full cut VVS diamonds.

The (7)**Mango Textured Unstructured Blazer** (P2,950) keeps it casual but smart inside and outside the office.

All work and no play is boring, and the (8)**Perry Ellis Solid Chambray Dress Shirt** (P2,250) is just the right shirt to project a fresh and vibrant outlook.

Give him a boost with the (9)**Bradford Brenan 3" Formal Shoes** (P4,299) made of ox- and pigskin.

The person who has everything

That friend or family member with a Platinum card for all of life's troubles must seem the most challenging to surprise with a gift. But we're here to save the holiday season for both of you, so don't fret. Instead of trying to best the latest tech toys, give something more practical or meaningful, or something to remember you by. Even Richie Rich needed some TLC.

The (1)**Huawei Honor 6 Plus** (P17,490)—with its HiSilicon Kirin 925 octa-core processor, dual 8MP camera, HTML5 browsing, and LTE compatibility—is a great secondary phone that looks like an iPhone 6 Plus without known iOS limitations.

The (2)**Sphero BB-8** (P12,499.75) is not just a cute, Bluetooth-enabled smart droid that patrols the perimeter, projects a holographic video message, and follows remote-controlled movement via an iOS or Android device; it is also a friend.

Even the most expensive tablet needs a trusty keyboard for productivity, and that's where the Bluetooth-enabled, impact-resistant (3)**LG Rolly Keyboard** ($119) comes in.

A (4)**Limited Edition Oris Audi Sport** ($4,100) is certainly something to consider because this multi-piece titanium-cased chronograph with tungsten minutes and silver dial is only limited to 2,000 units.

But no matter how many luxury watches you give, a smartwatch is always special—like the water-resistant (5)**Frederique Constant Horological Smartwatch** ($995), which can track sleep patterns, and walking and running activity.

Encourage that artistic side with a (6)**Moleskin Smart Notebook** (P1,620), which uses a Creative Cloud application, reads special marks on the pages, and converts them into a digital image.

With all these gadgets that need charging, having an (7)**Aniva 100,000mAh Ultra Powerbank** (P24,000) close by ensures that devices don't become glorified paperweight.

Words **JOHN SOSMEÑA**

Exclusively available in National Book Store Shangri-la Plaza Mall and SM Aura Premier, and Powerbooks Greenbelt 4.

SHOES-TAINABLE

ECO-FRIENDLY FOOTWEAR THAT HELP SAVE YOUR STYLE AND THE PLANET

Words **RON CRUZ**

PREACHING ABOUT THE WONDERS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND THE NEED FOR A CHANGE IN LIFESTYLE IS EASY TO DO, but actually backing it up is harder than it looks. Talking the talk is one thing; walking the walk is a whole different matter altogether.

In this issue, we collate a mix of some of the best looking green, eco-friendly, and upcycled or recycled footwear out in the market today. We'd like to think that wearing one of these babies is a step toward the right direction. Who says you have to sacrifice aesthetics in order to help the environment?

TIMBERLAND

Men's Britton Hill Moc Toe Waterproof Boots

Timberland's take on the green boot isn't 100 percent, but it's a start. The mesh lining of the Britton Hill boots use at least 50 percent polyethylene therephthalate (PET)—the plastic we use for soda bottles—while the boot laces are made of 100 percent recycled nylon.

The boot's uppers feature supple premium full-grain and nubuck leather, giving it a gorgeous complementary two-tone silhouette. The leather has been treated during the tanning process to become water-resistant, making the moc-toe a perfect combination of form and function.

BRAVE GENTLEMAN BY JOSHUA KATCHER
Mastermind

Mastermind from Brave Gentleman by Joshua Katcher looks like your regular, run-off-the-mill oxford shoes, but the pair has quite a story behind it.

The whole shoe is vegan friendly, with the uppers made of Italian microfiber. Even if it's made of faux leather, the Mastermind looks and feels genuine and can break in and age like the real deal as well. As the proverbial cherry on top, each pair is made under fair labor conditions in the EU, making the Mastermind a masterpiece in pretty much every aspect.

DR. MARTENS
Vegan 1460

Through the years, Dr. Martens' trademark boot has been a staple in every wardrobe. Their vegan version builds on the strengths of this modern classic but adds in synthetic materials in lieu of the leather. The material is soft and supple, and has a nice subtle two-tone finish.

Even though materials are different from those used in regular Dr. Martens, the build quality and attention to detail you'd expect from the brand is still there. And the Goodyear welt and air-cushioned sole we've come to know and love still makes an appearance. While the Vegan 1460 is a replica of the original 8-holed boot, its unique characteristics make it proudly stand on its own.

MANILA SOLE
Aguinaldo Denim

For something proudly made on Philippine shores, we have Manila Sole's recycled Aguinaldo Denim sneakers. These stylish slip-ons are made in Marikina, the local shoe capital of the country.

The uppers of the Aguinaldo use recycled denim and provide a striking contrast to the shoe's white outsole and midsole. To balance the whole look and add a touch of pizzaz, an accent of blue lining is present. The soles of the handcrafted beauties on the other hand are made of locally sourced and recycled tires, giving each pair its own unique personality.

OLIBERTE
Sogal

Oliberte's Sogal is a casual espadrille that's proudly handcrafted in a fair trade-certified factory in Ethiopia. The shoe features a rich, genuine leather upper, which makes it perfect for everyday use.

The sole might look thin, but it is quite durable. The 5mm Ortholite insole and 5mm flat natural rubber outsole give the shoe a sleek, minimalist feel without sacrificing comfort and sturdiness. To further accentuate the handmade and fair trade aspect, Oliberte adds a nice touch to the Sogal by depicting a map of Ethiopa on the outsole.

soleRebels

shoo VEG homegrown

soleRebels epitomizes sustainability. For starters, they are the only fair trade-certified footwear company in the world, creating opportunities and paying fair wages to locals in Ethiopia.

Almost every part of the shoo VEG homegrown is, well, homegrown. Everything from the woven Abyssinian leather and jutes, to recycled tires, organic cotton, and koba plant fibers are sourced locally.

The hand-loomed colorful fabrics used in each pair produce gorgeous-looking footwear that's full of soul. Woven jutes are used for the midsole, while recycled tires are crafted for the outsole, giving the shoo VEG a comfortable bounce to each step. All these individual components combine into a handmade and sustainable labor of love.

PIKOLINOS

Jerez 5956 Brandy

While Pikolinos' Jerez is a traditional driving shoe, it would be such a shame for it to stay unseen inside your car. This loafer yearns to be ogled at.

Pikolinos uses chrome-free leather, natural dyes, and water-based, toxic-free glues in making its products. The Jerez 5956 Brandy's upper is made of super soft semi-vegetable tanned leather and handstitched by skilled Spanish artisans. Dual elastic goring is done to ensure a perfect and comfortable fit. Small details like the debossed logo near the heel and on the rubber sole add a playful touch.

Inside the shoe is a padded collar and heel, and a cushioned footbed that makes sure you feel nothing but comfort, whether you wear it just for an hour or the whole day.

TIMBERLAND

Earthkeepers Boat Oxford

Timberland's Earthkeepers line isn't limited to just boots. The Boat Oxford boasts the same sustainable features that the bestselling line offers, namely 100 percent recycled shoe laces and midsoles made of recycled polyethylene therephthalate (PET) bottles. The shoe's upper uses white canvas, while the sole is crafted from manmade rubber. The rubber sole is very flexible and has nice accents that promote grip to avoid slipping. To add some contrast to the otherwise pure white pair, the midsole is lined blue.

The Boat Oxford offers a very clean silhouette that's both striking and versatile whether you're at land or at sea.

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*PROMO LAST UNTIL DECEMBER 2015

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Pearly Black

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Per DTI FTEB SPD PERMIT NO. 9875 series of 2015

www.kymco.com.ph

MISSION: EARTH

SAVING THE PLANET THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Technology almost always takes the blame for everything that harms nature. When the Earth is ridden with environmental disasters, we are quick to point a finger at technological developments. But as the old saying goes, "When you point one finger, three fingers are pointing back at you."

Yes, we are to blame for the degradation of our planet. Technology is but a tool, an instrument, and it depends on us how we will use it. And when we devote our efforts to conserve Mother Nature, all of us will benefit, not just today but for centuries more to come. Because this planet is not just our home; it is our only home.

These series of articles feature heroes and heroic deeds such as Filipino inventors who have come up with ways to save the environment, and green strategies that bring nature into urban jungles. The need for alternative energy sources is highlighted in an infographic showing solar and hydroelectric power plants in the country.

The mission is to save the Earth. Choose to accept it.

PROUDLY PINOY

HOMEGROWN GREEN INVENTIONS OUT TO SAVE MOTHER EARTH

Words **CARMELA MARAAN FERNANDO**

If there is one strong positive trait that the Filipino is underestimated for, it's the capacity for resourcefulness and innovation, especially in unfavorable circumstances. Cases in point: our diminishing natural resources, lack of cost-effective alternative tools and materials, and our rapidly worsening environmental conditions.

Ours is a third-world country that grants several opportunities to be creative in devising effective lifestyle solutions that aren't only efficient and potentially lucrative, but also mindful of short- and long-term impacts on the environment.

What is innovation but a smarter take on adaptation? Thanks to the support of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), we have a host of both young and seasoned inventors of future-forward, green concepts, some of which are award winning. But the best part is, a good number of these inventors haven't even graduated from school yet.

Marilyn Paed-Rayray

Electrifilter

Water is such a valuable resource. Electrifilter (Electricity Generation from Filthy Water) generates electricity and produces clean water from bacteria-infested water, and is intended to aid calamity-stricken areas and remote locales in the country that have little or no access to electric power and clean water. For this invention, engineering students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines John Paul Santos and Christian Sta. Romana ranked third in the 'Go Green in The City' competition in Paris, France, this year.

Water wickers for oil spills

Oil spills kill so much marine life and contaminate resources, but a substance that wicks away water and attracts oil has finally been invented. University of the Philippines student Raiza Elmira Imperial won second place in the 26th BPI Foundation-Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Science Awards for what she calls the One-Step Fabrication of Superhydrophobic/Superoleophilic Electrodeposited Polythiophene for Oil and Water Separation.

Chito F. Sace

Vertical garden for your home

If you have one square meter of yard or garden, that's already enough to grow your green leafy vegetables in. Chito Sace from Central Luzon State University designed the Aquaponic Urban Vertical Garden, an organized tiered structure where you can grow plants in without using up too much space. This structure features a pump submerged in a water-filled cylinder, and sends water through the tiers where the vegetables are planted. The water cylinder houses freshwater fish, adding nutrients to the water supply that act as fertilizer for the vegetables.

Hybrid Road Train

Our current train system is in such a dire state. Hopefully, with the Hybrid Road Train, which runs on either electric batteries or diesel fuel, we have a sustainable solution. It is a 40-meter-long train with five coaches and four air-conditioned cabins that can carry up to 60 passengers. The Hybrid Road Train, which was developed by scientists and engineers at the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), can reach a maximum speed of 50kph, and is designed to navigate narrow and highly populated roads while producing less smoke emissions than standard vehicles.

dost.gov.ph

BPI Foundation

Breadcrumb

Described as "An Indoor Simultaneous Localization and Mapping System for Mobile Devices," Breadcrumb is a technology similar to GPS that helps you navigate through a closed establishment during an emergency like an earthquake. Placing third in the aforementioned competition is Alron Jan Lam of De La Salle University, who developed this system which works by granting users access to indoor positioning systems.

Fungi-fighting bacteria

Banana production in the Philippines is a huge industry. To protect this from a potentially deadly fungal infection, Christian John Capirig of Ateneo de Davao University derived an effective antifungal treatment from soil bacteria. For this, he won first place in the 26th BPI Foundation-Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Science Awards.

Coco Coir Enterprise

Being a tropical country, we are gifted with plenty of coconut trees. That means we also produce a lot of waste from coconut husk called coco coir. The Malingao Community Service Multipurpose Cooperative (MCOCO) in Lanao del Norte is a community enterprise that enables local residents to help produce twine and related products like coco mats and geo nets from coco coir. The area thrives on the coconut industry, and therefore has an abundance of coco coir. Aside from reusing waste, MCOCO provides several employment opportunities and a steady income for the community.

Burn soother

Do away with cotton dressings and chemical solutions. *Nata de coco* can now be used to treat burns. Filipino nurse Denver Chicano came up with VERMAC, which is made of coconut milk processed into cellulose patches, and can be applied to burns and other external wounds to help facilitate the healing process. As it is with *nata de coco*, VERMAC stores water and cools the skin very well, making it an ideal soothing treatment.

xyderm.com/vermac

Naturescast

Naturescast is a line of elegant furniture made of biodegradeable and recyclable forest debris like dead twigs, fallen bark, and dead shrubs. Made by Nature's Legacy, this furniture line includes wall hangings, lamps, vases, decorative bowls, chairs, and even walls and ceilings. The materials are bound together with an odorless water-based binder, and contain no VOC (Volatile Organic Compound), making them safe for the environment.

Nature's Legacy, a company that specializes in transforming various natural waste products into beautiful home furnishings, has been around for a while now, and this longevity makes the enterprise noteworthy today.

naturescast.com

These inventions are only a glimpse into what we can achieve in terms of making the Philippines a greener, more economically productive, and more scientifically advanced society—solid proof that we can be pioneers in marrying nature with technology.

CITY OF GREENS

ARCHITECTURAL STRATEGIES IN REDESIGNING A GREENER METRO MANILA

Words **ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN**

During an out of town trip, you must have looked out of the window of a car, bus, or airplane and saw lush green fields, sun-baked beaches, or mountain silhouettes outlining the horizon.

But on the way back home, those humbling mountains soon dissipate into towering skyscrapers clouded in gray smog, while the seemingly endless fields become concrete jungles jampacked with shanties lying on top of each other.

You stop in disappointment and ask yourself, "Is there hope for Metro Manila to become a green urban paradise?"

Pamela Aguja

Seeking greener pastures

Rapid urbanization has taken its toll on the country and the environment. Over the past decades, families plagued by the lack of livelihood and opportunities from far-flung provinces move to the city in hopes of a better life and working opportunity. This has contributed greatly to Metro Manila's population that now stands 12 million strong.

One way metropolitan areas address this influx is by converting green open spaces into profitable structures such as commercial malls and expensive housing units, leaving little room for green space. As of 2010, the National Capital Region has a mere 2,214 hectares of forested areas, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Compared with the country's total of 6,839,718 hectares of forest, that number equates to a mere 0.0003 percent.

Malls have also replaced public parks as our go-to hangout spot. Seldom do families nowadays invite their families to a park picnic. Most of the time, the first option is to eat out at one of the new restaurants in the city or at the neighborhood fast food chain.

Economy vs green

Given this pace at which today's economy-driven nation grows, do we still have room for green spaces and green technology?

To find out, *Speed* sought the expert advice of Architect Marie Stephanie N. Gilles, a Principal Architect and Planner of SND Design Enterprise, and Chairperson of United Architects of the Philippines Emergency Architects. She shared with us her study titled "Evaluating the Sustainability of Green Open Spaces in Shopping Malls: The Ayala Greenbelt Experience," which was recognized as Best Paper and Best Presentation award during the Second Asia Future Conference held in August 2014 at Bali, Indonesia.

Looking into a select number of malls, the study found out that TriNoma, SM North EDSA, and Glorietta allotted a mere 5 to 7 percent to green space, while Greenbelt recorded a high of 33 to 35 percent.

According to Gilles, this low amount of green space in commercial establishments can be derived from a trend in today's "consumerist society" that regards "practicality and profitability" as "foremost in the scale of priorities."

True enough, modern society does see progress in developing the economy to uplift the nation. But does this mean that green space ought to be compromised?

Go green for a reason

Why the need for green?

For one, green spaces contribute to air and water purification by trapping pollutants, according to Nonprofit Environmental Health Research Foundation. They also prevent erosion by thwarting nutrient run-off, and are vital in maintaining temperature levels.

Green spaces contribute to oxygen generation as well and remove harmful carbon from the atmosphere, as mentioned in John Heinze's "Benefits of Green Space."

Additionally, open and green spaces provide recreational areas for residents, and help enhance the beauty and quality of neighborhoods, as affirmed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Green and profitable

Gilles sees hope in going green despite the rapid boom of skyscrapers across the Metro. One of her solutions: green architecture.

Her study claims that going green does not necessarily mean a loss of revenue for private firms. In fact, the study concludes that green spaces attract people, thereby making up for the revenue lost to green space. Looking at the Greenbelt mall, Gilles pointed out that "the park acts as a magnet to generate volume of foot traffic, which spills over to the shops and restaurants located nearest to it."

Using this study as a takeoff point, it is safe to say that commercial establishments can use Greenbelt's design as a "blueprint" to going green, and that going green does not always compromise profit.

To invite more commercial firms to adopt green spaces, Gilles suggests that local laws must mandate commercial establishments to allot a minimum of 10 to 15 percent of their area to unpaved surfaces.

Passive vs active green design

But getting commercial establishments to go green is only one piece of the puzzle.

In another study titled "Innovative Approaches in Reducing Energy Consumption in the Philippines," structures are proposed to adopt energy-saving solutions as well by integrating what the study coined as passive and active green design. Gilles wrote this study together with Juvy Balbarona and Josefina de Asis, graduate students at the University of the Philippines, and in collaboration with Prof. Weijun Gao of the University of Kitakyushu.

Passive green design analyzes a structure's site and its peripherals, including lighting and cooling.

Building windows and doors, for instance, can be positioned to allow more sunlight to penetrate, reducing the need for interior lighting. Similarly, a structure's ventilation must be considered given that much of our electricity consumption is due to temperature-controlling appliances such as fans and air conditioners.

Active green design, on the other hand, makes use of greener equipment and technologies but requires greater investment and production cost.

Resourceful building

But not everyone can buy high-tech green materials, especially in a developing country like the Philippines.

To address this, there is a need for more resourceful approaches in grassroots communities, and this is where the role of civil society and non-government organizations comes into play.

The group made a list of low-cost projects that incorporate green architectural principles. Building materials, for instance, can be made low cost through recycling. Bricks can be made out of agricultural wastes such as rice hull, corn husk, or even plastic byproducts.

> Passive green design analyzes a structure's site and its peripherals, including lighting and cooling.

Barangay Bagumbuhay in Quezon City recycles at least 80 percent of their garbage into bricks that can be used on sidewalks and the like.

Alternative energies can also be tapped. The group cited My Shelter Foundation's Liter of Light project, which uses an empty PET bottle with added water, bleach, and salt to produce light.

Resourceful structures can be made out of waste as well. The group suggested looking into the use of shipping containers and container vans that are classified as Class C (no longer seaworthy) or Class D (junk) as temporary housing.

What can we do?

To fully integrate going green into modern structures and urban spaces, there is a need for a comprehensive green development plan, pooling together various sectors of society.

For now, we can start first with having more green spaces in commercial establishments, the government looking for better alternative sources of renewable energy and mandating green laws, economically capable private institutions adopting the latest green technologies and campaigns, the civil society educating the people about green alternatives and resourceful building, and using passive and active green designs.

Let's not lose hope. We have a long green future to win.

PUMPING POWER

HYDROELECTRIC AND SOLAR POWER PLANTS YOU DID NOT KNOW EXISTED IN THE PHILIPPINES

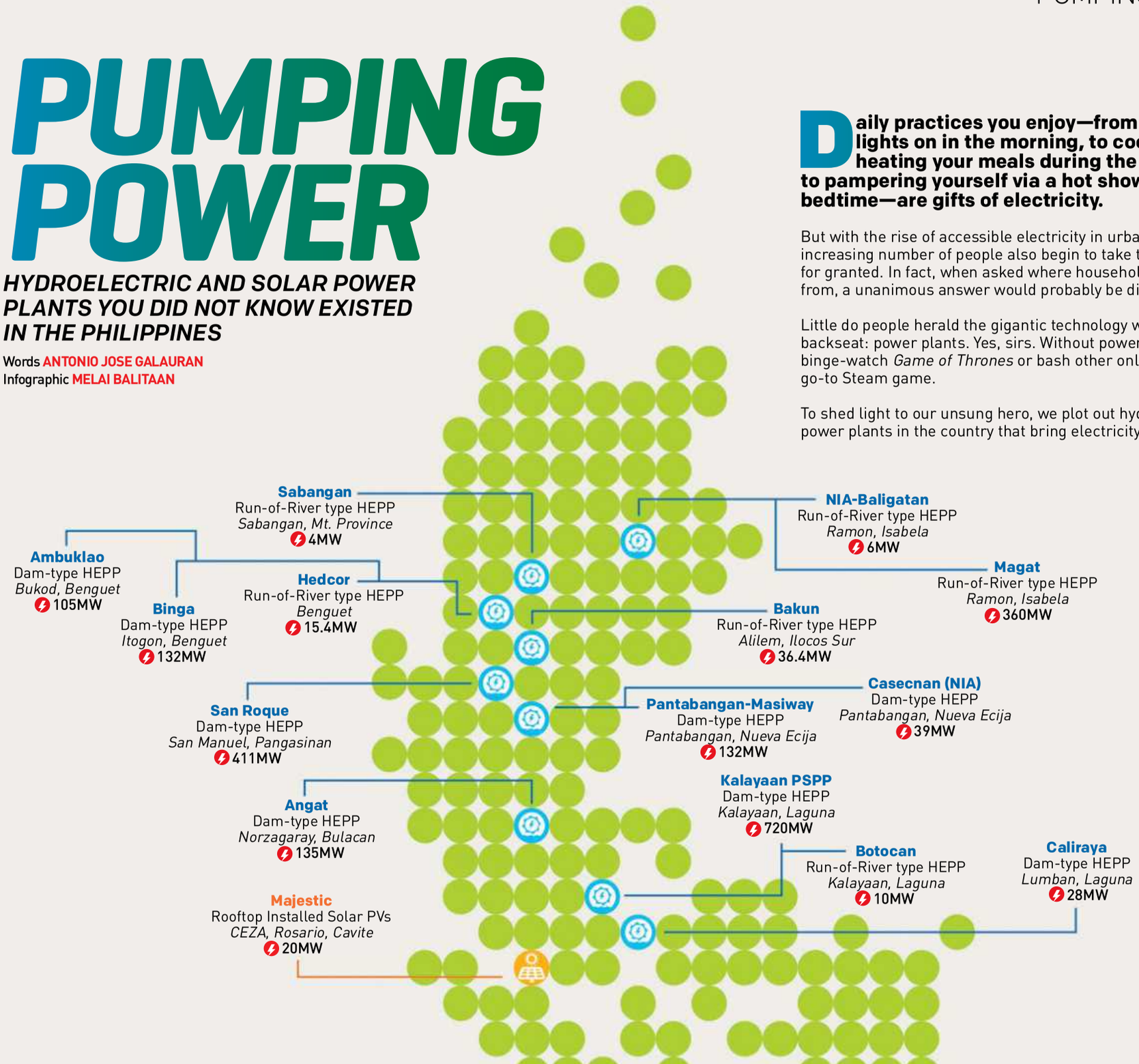
Words ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN
Infographic MELAI BALITAAN

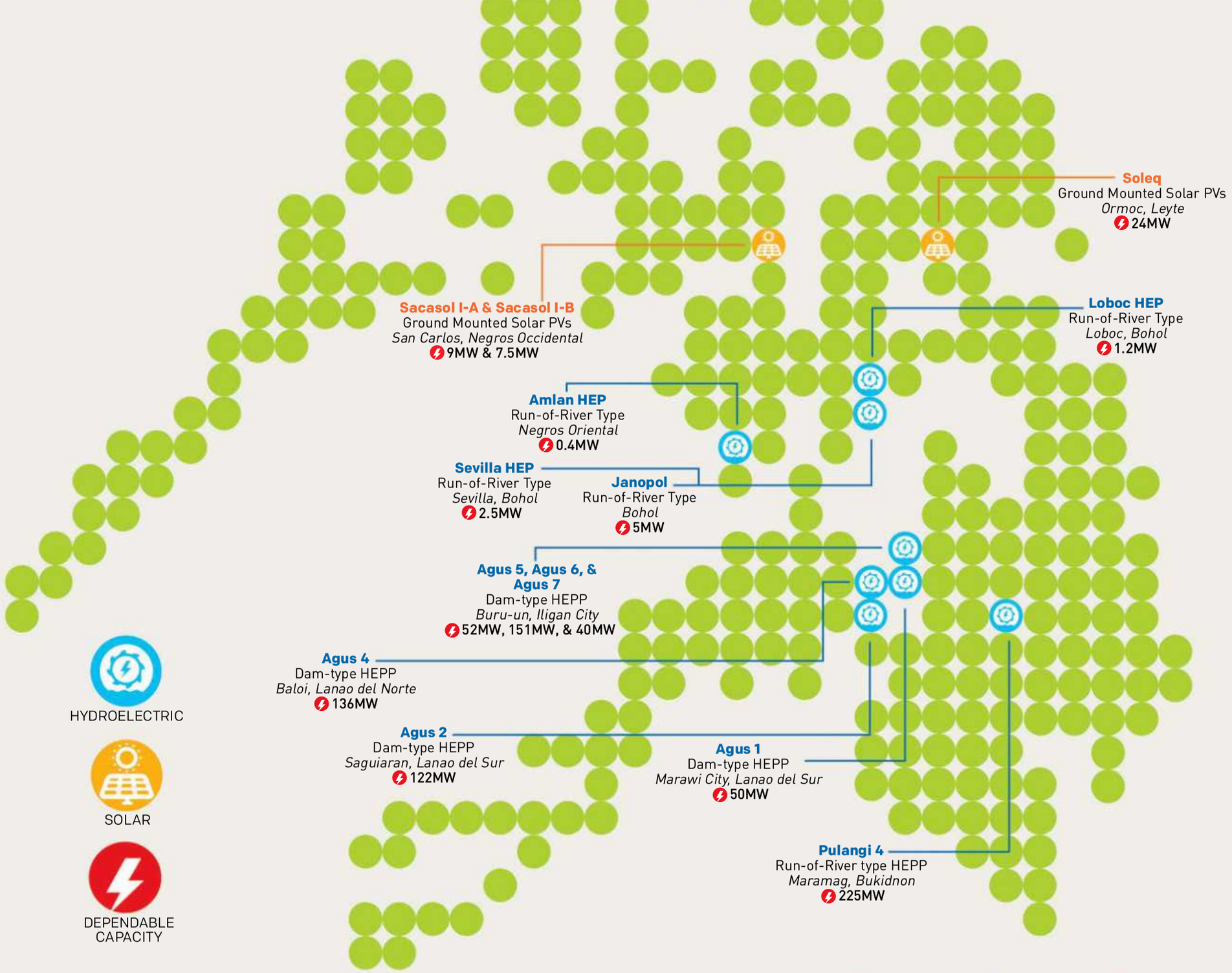
Daily practices you enjoy—from turning the lights on in the morning, to cooking and heating your meals during the day, and down to pampering yourself via a hot shower before bedtime—are gifts of electricity.

But with the rise of accessible electricity in urban areas, an increasing number of people also begin to take this life-giving source for granted. In fact, when asked where household electricity comes from, a unanimous answer would probably be distributor Meralco.

Little do people herald the gigantic technology working in the backseat: power plants. Yes, sirs. Without power plants, you can't binge-watch *Game of Thrones* or bash other online players in your go-to Steam game.

To shed light to our unsung hero, we plot out hydroelectric and solar power plants in the country that bring electricity to your homes.





Source: Department of Energy's List of Existing Power Plants (as of June 2015)

SPECTRE

Words **PAT CALICA**

OPENS November 6

"So what's going on, James?"

They say you're finished," asked Eve Moneypenny.

You probably asked the same question after watching yet another lukewarm *James Bond* film.

But alas, Agent 007's silver screen prowess—though sometimes lacking—hasn't failed him yet, so on to another *Bond* movie.

SOMETHING SPECTRE-CULAR

This 24th *Bond* film sees Daniel Craig reprising his role as 007 for the fourth time and reuniting with 2012's *Skyfall* director Sam Mendes. In *Spectre*, a cryptic message from Bond's past sends him on a trail to uncover a sinister organization.

The word SPECTRE first appeared in the inaugural *James Bond* movie, *Dr. No*. From time to time this ominous persona appeared in the next installments, albeit in a slightly altered form.

For the 2015 outing of the spy saga, SPECTRE turns into a type of evil that's apt for the 21st century—a group that uses trafficked private data for nefarious means—and something that Craig's Bond can't physically gun down or chase in a speedboat.

There is plenty of action-packed scenes and high-tech toys as Agent 007 digs through the layers of deceit in order to reveal the terrible truth behind SPECTRE. Meanwhile, Garreth Mallory (Ralph Fiennes), the newly appointed M, struggles to keep the secret service running under political pressure.

BREAKING THE MOLD

Spectre's convoluted story is complemented by equally complex characters, starting off with the most intriguing of them all: Christoph Waltz's shadowy power broker Franz Oberhauser.

"You came across me so many times, yet you never saw me," boasts Oberhauser at one point in the film.

Breaking away from the ridiculously young lady lead type-cast, *Spectre* casts 50-year-old Italian actress Monica Belluci for Lucia Sciarra, a widow of an assassin killed by Bond. The oldest ever to play a Bond Girl, Belluci beats Honor Blackman who was 38 years old when she starred in *Goldfinger* in 1984.

Other characters that further thicken the plot include M's assistant Eve Moneypenny (Naomie Harris), MI6 quartermaster Q (Ben Whishaw), psychologist Madeleine Swann (Lea Seydoux), assassin and high-ranking SPECTRE member Mr. Hinx (Dave Bautista), MI6 Chief of Staff Bill Tanner (Rory Kinnear), and British government intelligence Max Denbigh (Andrew Scott).

One thing that *Spectre* seems to accomplish right off the bat by harking back to Bond's past is creating more room for the franchise to go on in the future. This gives the next *James Bond* installments the solid foundation to take root from while allowing them to move forward and subtly reintroduce elements that are familiar yet make total sense in a contemporary context.

When Bond asked what she thinks about him being finished, Moneypenny answered, *"I think you're just getting started."*

BUZZ FEED

James Bond's new car in *Spectre* is an Aston Martin DB10, which is "strictly created for *James Bond* and strictly limited to 10 cars only" according to Aston Martin CEO Andy Palmer.

The Good Dinosaur

OPENS November 25

Where would we be now had dinosaurs not gone extinct? Pixar's second animated film of the year, *The Good Dinosaur*, takes on this fascinating plot, showing a time when dinosaurs cohabit with humans.

Intriguing about this film is Pixar's use of photorealistic environments, or what Pixar calls "painterly realism" in creating the film's picturesque landscapes. Also, the film's numerous production delays add to the hype of the film.

The movie is directed by Peter Sohn, who continued the project from where original director Bob Peterson left off. The film stars the voices of Raymond Ochoa (Arlo) and Jack Bright (Spot).

Words PAT CALICA and ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN

THE PEANUTS MOVIE

OPENS November 6

Millenials and younger kids

Coinciding with *Peanuts'* 65th Anniversary, the film follows Charlie Brown's quest to be recognized as someone great albeit encountering several failures along the way. A tribute to the late Peanuts creator Charles M. Schulz, his son Craig Schulz takes on the rein of turning the iconic strip into an animated film together with his screenwriter son Bryan Schulz, co-producer and writer Cornelius Uliano, and director Steve Martino.

can now meet the characters that captivated your childhood as Snoopy and Charlie Brown join the rest of the Peanut gang on the big screen this month in *The Peanuts Movie*.

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN

OPENS November 25

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* has already been subjected to many macabre twists that every next one is feared to be more cringe-worthy than Frankenstein should be.

***Victor Frankenstein*, however, provides action and humor with its pyrotechnics, funny buddy banters, bad haircuts, and hyper-realistic period detail. Of course the gooey special effects and a monster to fight with are there, too.**

This gothic classic re-imagining is told from the perspective of Igor (Daniel Radcliffe), the infamous assistant to the equally infamous, mad scientist Doctor Victor Frankenstein (James McAvoy).

Jessica Brown Findlay, Andrew Scott, and Freddie Foxx are also part of this incredibly eye-popping flick.

TESLA MODEL X

REDEFINES HOW YOU THINK ABOUT SUVs

Words **GADJO CARDENAS SEVILLA**

In the motoring world, there is no greater example of compromise than the SUV or Sports Utility Vehicle.

SUVs aren't cars and they sure aren't trucks, but they straddle the line between these vehicle types. Our increasing need to carry more stuff and more people makes the SUV a necessity in this day and age, but it is far from perfect.

Twenty years ago, people who needed more space than a sedan drove station wagons and minivans. Station wagons were generally utilitarian and unattractive variants of smaller cars. Very little thought was put into their design and styling. Even though they offered cavernous space and decent hauling capabilities, you always felt you were paying more for something that didn't look great.

SUVs, which are a combination of passenger car and light-truck chassis, seemed like the sexier alternative. They offer more space but retain small-car sensibilities and styling. More importantly, they don't look boring and appeal to all types of buyers, not just soccer moms and midsize families.

The problem with SUVs is that they often give their drivers a false sense of superiority. People tend to drive SUVs as if they were tanks, bullying their way around roads and highways.

SUVs' large bodies and higher center of gravity make them substantially less capable of withstanding front and side impact. SUVs are bigger, but they sure aren't safer.

Their oversized nature also dictates that they are less economical on gas. And if you add all those up, you are really paying more for bigger space but not much else. And the fact that SUVs are more expensive to insure makes what seemed to be a good idea just feel like a huge compromise.

TESLA MODEL X

Elon Musk revealed the Tesla Model X as the first all-electric SUV from the premium EV carmaker. Tesla didn't just put the guts of their Tesla Model S sedan on a larger platform; they carefully considered how to innovate the core idea of what an SUV is, and the result is pretty amazing.

The Tesla Model X looks like many of the existing premium SUVs that one would buy from Acura, BMW, or Mercedes-Benz, but unlike those vehicles, it runs fully on batteries that can be charged overnight.

Those batteries form the base of the vehicle. While traditional vehicles are built on frames (which are hollow), the Tesla Model X is reinforced by the large battery arrays it carries.

The front of the Model X doesn't have an engine (it is electric), so that area serves as

extra storage big enough for a folding bike and integrates some strong crumple zones. This gives the car supreme rigidity.

Thanks to its impressive design, the Model X would likely receive the highest safety rating of any SUV in the market today. Independent testing by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has awarded the Tesla Model S, the sedan from which the Model X is based, a 5-star safety rating in every subcategory without exception. This bodes well for the Model X, which inherits a lot of the sedan's safety features and even adds a few of its own.

INNOVATING AT EVERY TURN

The production of the Tesla Model X was delayed for a few years, and so the waiting list for this SUV is quite long. It seems Musk and his engineers took their time to make some really great leaps forward.

The result is a long list of innovations that refreshes the tired old notions of what a motor (er, electric?) vehicle should be.

The most obvious innovation is the Falcon Wing doors. These rear gullwing-type doors look like they belong in a Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT, but they are much smarter. What seems to be a frivolous design choice for an SUV turns out to be a real innovative solution to the old problem of getting in and out of your vehicle in tight spaces.

The Falcon doors have two articulating hinges, laser sensors, and height sensors, making it possible to raise the doors upwards and inwards without dinging surrounding cars. Since they are completely out of the way, getting in and out from either side is dead easy, even in a garage with a low ceiling.

The Tesla Model X also innovates seating with a 7-seater setup that offers easy access to the rear bench even if you have kids in their car seats. Elon Musk, who has twins, explained that he designed this feature to lower the physical stress of carrying kids in and out, as well as moving them around when other passengers need to get in.

The Model X has a medical grade HEPA filter that removes pollen, bacteria, viruses, and pollution from cabin air. It is said to be as germ-free as a hospital operating room. Musk added a bioweapons defense mode, which creates positive pressure inside the cabin to protect occupants.

Road safety has also been bolstered as the Model X continually scans the surrounding roadway with camera, radar, and sonar systems, providing the driver with real-time feedback to help avoid collisions. Even at highway speeds, the Model X is designed to automatically apply brakes in anemergency. Having experienced this when I test-drove the Model S, I can tell you that the features are extremely precise.

THE GOOD STUFF

Being an electric vehicle, the Tesla Model X is almost telepathically fast. There is zero lag in acceleration, which is stunning for a car of this size. On the Ludicrous speed-enabled models, the Model X easily accelerates from zero to 60 miles per hour in as quick as 3.2 seconds.

A more reasonable yet still spine-tingling 4.8-second 0-60mph acceleration is available on the base model version.

This supercar-like acceleration on a 7-seater that can also haul bikes, skis, and various other accessories using smart suction and magnetic add-on devices is a real feat. The Model X can also pull 5,000 pounds, which means it has the torque and pulling power of a larger, more powerful Jeep or pickup truck.

That all these remarkable automotive innovations is available in one vehicle is quite amazing. We can only hope that some of these features make it down the line to more affordable cars sooner rather than later.

ECO DRIVING, ANYONE?

MIKE POTENCIANO

We HAVE NOW COME FULL CIRCLE. The cost of crude oil per barrel has fallen from $100 to below $50 today, which is the same rate as 10 years ago. However, we are not that fortunate to see the cost of fuel lowered as fast or as much as we expect it to be. It depends on a lot of factors, but in the end, we are still charged for what the market can pay for.

So, while we sort out the mass transport systems (the infrastructure needed to alleviate traffic congestion and boost the economy), what can we do to help improve the worsening global warming condition?

The first thing I would do is to get a good car that will answer the following:

- Provide a safe and reliable commute for all the needs of the family
- Provide the best fuel efficiency to stretch my hard-earned pesos
- Give me the peace of mind that there will be no mechanical problems encountered along the way
- Make my world less stressful and hopefully make me healthier

If you are not able to buy a car now for whatever reason, please consider maintaining your present car and tuning the nut behind the wheel—meaning you. The car will only be able to do so much, but it is the person driving who will eventually decide on what rate of fuel efficiency the car can achieve.

Here are some of my basic fuel eco driving tips that have helped my team and I win Media Eco Runs recently:

Prepare yourself mentally. Everything starts with a proper mindset. Make sure you have made the decision to become an eco-friendly and safe driver. You will be amazed at how everything follows when you have psyched yourself up.

Give yourself a lot of time. The worst thing to do is chase an appointment because you will never be able to practice eco driving. With our traffic jams now, it is quite a challenge to get to Makati from Quezon City in an hour. So make sure you don't put too many things on your calendar.

Plan your trip. Try to get appointments closer to each other. I have always asked my friends to meet at a convenient place and then suggest to meet halfway if it's too far.

Download and use navigational apps. I have Waze, Google Maps, and MMDA apps on my smartphone. I always check ahead where the traffic is bad and look for detours around it. It will also be good to familiarize yourself with the city streets even while you follow online maps. It helps to remember the names of the streets you pass by. Reviewing routes you take can help you find a better route on your next trip.

Be as smooth as possible when you drive. Always treat the accelerator pedal as if there was an egg between it and your foot. A lot of new cars have accelerators that are electronically actuated and are very sensitive to pressure. Always try to remember to keep that imaginary egg intact and avoid getting it cracked.

Always use the real time fuel mileage indicator. One of the better features in a new car is the real time mileage display, which is sometimes hidden from normal view. Make sure you understand how it works and stay in the most economical mode possible when driving. Gauge how your current mileage compares with your eco one so you can gauge your improvements every day.

Understand your auto transmission. It is almost a necessity to have an automatic car in Metro Manila. But elsewhere, it's always more efficient to drive a manual transmission. Not all transmissions are the same and you have to learn the small differences of each. Sometimes the overdrive ratio cannot be engaged when you are in Manual or Sport mode. Other times you have to press a button to use it. Generally, I find that cars offer better mileage when you actually shift it manually rather than letting the computer do it for you.

Use the iStop function or do it yourself. Another feature that is worth using is the iStop function, which shuts down the engine when you are stopped in traffic. If your car doesn't have one, manually turn off the engine when you think you will be stopped longer than 10 seconds. If it is crawling, better disengage the iStop, so you don't use more fuel by starting it every time it moves.

Adjust your air con temperature to the highest comfortable setting. The biggest drain on an engine's power is the air conditioning system. It consumes as much as 10 percent more fuel when it is on. However, it is so hard to live without air conditioning and the least we can do is set the temperature as high as possible that we can bear. On the contrary, set the blower settings to the lowest possible.

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Wilson
FELT LIVES IN FEAR
THE NEW BURN RACKET
Booming power, Spin Effect Technology and an extended shaft. The Burn is built for baseliners to light up any match.
WilsonSportsPH
TOBYS SPORTS
OLYMPIC VILLAGE
OLYMPIC WORLD

"Yo! What's up? Kylie Padilla."

Said the 22-year-old actress helping us test the recorders before the interview.

"Let's start?" we asked.

Kylie stopped midway of slipping her sneakers on, dropped them on the floor, and sat herself comfortably on the couch, Indian style.

ARMED &

KYLIE PADILLA

INTERVIEW BY **PAT CALICA**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **MARLON PECJO**

STYLED BY **GABBY WU** | HAIR **MARK IBARROLA** | MAKEUP **KYLIE PADILLA**

DANGEROUS

BLACK LAPEL ROMPER BY APARTMENT 8

BLACK EMBELLISHED JACKET BY PAT SANTOS | BLACK LEATHER SKIRT STYLIST'S OWN

PRACTICALLY

showbiz royalty, Kylie Padilla is aware of her enviable position in the industry, but she's not using it to her advantage. She requested doing her own makeup for the shoot, exclaimed exuberantly whenever overwhelmed with emotions, and answered our questions with disarming honesty.

CONTINUE LOADING

To be a YouTuber. That is Kylie's dream job—of course, apart from being an actress and if she isn't busy traveling all over the world.

"I feel like all the YouTubers are like me who stay home and have nothing to do, so they make [these videos]. And they're all kind of geeks," Kylie said. Her favorite YouTubers include Dan and Phil, PewDiePie, and Zoella. Kylie even shared to us her dream of attending the VidCon event and meeting her idols in person.

You're a YouTuber yourself. Do you remember your first video blog?
It was "Gwiyomi." *Sinuggest lang ng isang* fan *ko* and I did it. It reached one million [views] and I was like, "Huh! *May* future *pala ako sa* YouTube."

I'm going to go back to [uploading videos]. *Inaayos ko pa sa utak ko kung anong gusto ko talagang* [focus].

What kind of videos do you usually upload?
Makeup tutorials and also my Muay Thai training. *Medyo* random *pa siya*.

How tech-savvy are you?
[I'm tech-savvy] when it comes to YouTube, editing, and making music.

How do you use technology in your work?
I can't live without my cellphone. I'm okay [without my phone] but *siyempre* there are things that you need to promote, and there are people you need to stay in contact with.

How long have you been able to go without an internet connection?
One month. I did a lot of reading and talking to people. Actual interaction.

How do you take care of your gadgets?
I'm not really good. [My current phone] case was given to me by my co-star because she saw that I had no case, and she saw that I broke my other phone. So *sabi niya*, "I have someone who wants to give you a case." *Binigay niya sa akin 'to*.

Any tech boo boos?
I drop [phones]—intentionally or not.

Did you say intentionally?
(*laughs*) You know when you're crazy and you're a teenager...

We take the Fifth. Speaking of phones, what's on your wallpaper now?
Joker! Heath Ledger. I'm a big fan of his character and the whole story *na hindi naka*-let go [*si* Heath] *sa* character *niya*.

You're a fan of Heath in particular or Joker?
The characters of Joker and Harley. I'm attracted to them because of the love story. *Tapos nung nag*-Joker *si* Heath Ledger, I fell in love with Joker.

What do you think of the *Suicide Squad*?
I like the old Harley better. If you've watched the old anime *Mad Love*, I love the Harley there because that Harley is based on Marilyn Monroe, which I'm also a fan of.

How about Jared Leto playing Joker?
Let's see. I still like Heath ledger. Let's see if he can spark something inside me.

EVERYDAY GADGETS
iPhone 6 Plus, MacBook, earphones, charger
GADGET SHE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT
iPhone 6 Plus, earphones
CURRENT CAR
Toyota Vios
GADGET WISH LIST
DSLR camera, Photoshop software, Polaroid camera, PlayStation4
MOST USED APPS
Instagram, Twitter, Photo Grid, Word of the Day
FAVORITE APPS
Instagram, Tumblr, YouTube

GREEN ROOTS

It's refreshing to meet celebrities with such honesty and realness—*au naturel*. And this being the Green Tech issue, the one issue in every year that *Speed* dedicates to efforts in saving Mother Earth, who better to sit down and talk to than someone who embraces everything that nature is about?

Not only that, but our beautiful cover girl is also a green advocate. It was her younger sister, Zhen, who influenced Kylie to be more conscious of the environment.

"She's OC about that stuff. *Kailangan hiwalay 'yung* recyclable *sa nabubulok, sa hindi nabubulok*. *'Yung mga* plastic bags *namin sa bahay may* green, *may* black. *Magagalit siya kapag hindi mo inaayos kung saan mo ilalagay*," she said.

Why do you feel strongly about saving the environment?
It's pretty simple. We live on earth so why don't we take care of it? We're going to regret it [in the end]. Too late *na nga raw eh*. When I think about all the waste, waste *ko pa lang sa bahay marami na*. *Paano pa kaya kung* times six billion people?

How do you think technology can help us go green?
Well, by [promoting], retweeting [a campaign]. It's the simplest one.

Supporting a campaign is good. We'll put that on our Bucket List. What's the one accomplishment that you're most proud of this year?
For me to finally master this sport, car racing, that I hated so much and got bullied for [is a big deal]. When I started *kasi* with [the Toyota Vios Cup], I hated it so much.

You were dubbed the #GirlCrash in the tournament.
Yeah, because there was no practice or race that I did not crash. And this latest one I was coming in fourth. But like I said, *'di pwedeng walang* crash, so I crashed. But if I finished that, I would have been fourth, and I used to be last all the time.

Congratulations! You find out more about yourself when you do new things and step out of your comfort zone. Now tell us: what's the one thing that *we* should know about you?
I'm actually a geek. I'm a home buddy. People look at me like I'm a party girl. [But] no, I'm not.

Really? So, how do you usually spend your weekends?
If I'm not working, [I spend weekends] with my sisters. All we do is play PlayStation.

When you're all stressed out, how do you unwind?
With a person who isn't in showbiz. Usually it's my sisters *talaga*. I just want to forget who the heck I am, what I did, and *kung maganda 'tong* take *na 'to*.

But if I was to be asked [what I would do when] no one is to be involved and [it's] just me, I want to be on top of a mountain. That's why I like mountain climbing.

Do you regularly climb?
Yeah, I mountain climb. [It] depends on our group *eh*. Our group *kasi puro artista rin so ang hirap* [*mag-ayos ng* schedule].

How many climbs has your group taken?
Dalawa. But counting all my climbs, I think I have at least four or five.

> "I'm actually a geek. I'm a home buddy. People look at me like I'm a party girl. [But] no, I'm not."

And you like riding motorcycles, too. What got you into bikes?
My dad. I said, "Pa, I want to ride a motorcycle." One day *sabi niya*, "*O sige*, go. *Mag*-lesson *ka*." And I just did it.

And what happened with your martial arts training?
I did it for three years straight and then after that '*pag kailangan ko na lang*. *Kasi* it's already in my muscle memory. When I get back to it, *ang bilis lang*. [I do it] when I just feel like I want to get back to it.

You also paint. What medium do you use?
My favorite when it comes to painting is acrylic, but I did Chinese painting, so I like watercolor now. And then black pen.

What are your usual subjects?
Human. Figure of a woman.
And butterflies and mermaids.

You write songs, too.
I've been writing since I could hold a pen, so I can't remember that. But those songs written three, four years ago, they're raw and not really who I am as a writer today. The album (*Seasons*) alone was experimental. I wasn't really sure [then] what taste I wanted. I was just so excited about producing it, making my own song, and actually getting the song I hear in my head into a CD [so] people can hear it. The whole idea was just so amazing to me.

SHIRT BY SPEED

What do you usually write about?
They used to just be [about] love. Now, it revolves around life, around being far away from certain people, about fame, about the showbiz thing that I'm doing that I still don't understand.

Where do you get your music inspirations?
[I listen to] Spotify. I have a new [album] I was listening to a while ago. It's *You+Me* [by P!nk and Dallas Green]. They're really nice songs. They're love songs.

Ah, to be young and in love. How does a guy win your attention in a crowded room?
The way he looks [at you]. There are guys who look at you like you're a piece of meat, and there are guys who look at you like I want to figure you out.

What should a man do and not do on a first date?
Don't take me on a date and tell me everything you have. I get so bored. Ego-tripping? I'm allergic to that. You don't have to tell me you're a man. I know you're a man. Tell me something deeper.

What's the sweetest thing a guy did for you?
'*Yung* latest, I was feeling really down. I was lying down and he took the pillow and he just said, "Are you alright?" '*Yung kino*-consider *niya* how you feel even though you're all tired—that was sweet.

HARD LINES

But it's not always roses and sunshine. Six years in show business and Kylie knows that there are still a lot of things that she doesn't understand, like how flimsy relationships can be with people around you or having to fake a smile when you really feel differently.

"I could be totally real to someone who's in show business, [showing] them that I really care. And then I'd find out that they have stepped on me. They totally forget that I showed them a little piece of my heart—just to get on top of me, just to get the better role, the better this, the better that," Kylie shared with much passion.

How do you deal with that kind of experiences?
I still don't know how to deal with them. (*laughs*) I have a hard time being "showbiz," as they say. Okay, we're civil, but I can't fake smiles anymore because I just don't feel that it's real.

Surely, your father and other relatives warned you about these things?
You know what's really sad? They didn't advise me anything about that. They only advised me about the part where [you shouldn't] use your body as a woman in showbiz, "*Hindi lang 'yun ang binebenta mo dito*."

I went through it by myself; it makes you stronger as a person. I wasn't ready at that age. I was only 15, and I was pushed into that kind of life. I grew up in Australia, so I have no friends here. *Siyempre kakapit ka kasi bata ka pa lang* and you're just developing as a person. *Kumapit ako* to the wrong people for a while. Then I just suddenly said *na,* "Okay, I'll stop trying to please people. I'll just be me *na lang*."

What's it like growing up in a showbiz clan?
There's this quote that resonates with all of us: It's both a blessing and a curse to feel everything so intensely. I think that's all the Padillas are like. *Lahat kami baliw* because we feel too much. If we love someone, we *love* them. Who cares what anyone else thinks? If we're angry, yes, *mamamaril kami*...Joke! (*laughs*)

We'll remember to stay on your good side! Did you feel any pressure from other people when you were starting?
The pressure was if I deserved [the roles and projects I was getting] and if I was good—whatever good means. [There were doubts] because I could just feel how [the people would] look at me like, "*Ay bida na agad*."

And now?
I don't want to be overconfident because I feel like overconfidence is a hindrance to learning. I always keep my eyes open to what I can improve, but I'm confident now that I can act. I deserve my place.

MAROON HALTER JUMPSUIT BY PAT SANTOS

ECOLOGICALLY CRAFTY

PACO PILI

Upcycling artist

Interview by ***Speed*** **editorial team**

upcycleph.tumblr.com

One man's trash is another man's treasure, they say. And treasures every trash will be if this craftsman decides to work his magic.

An artist with a necromancer's touch, Paco Pili is capable of resurrecting even the oldest throwaway wares and turning them into stylish, functional pieces. From old suitcases as preppy speakers and turntables, to old bathtubs as living room couches, his creations seem born out of a real magician's hands.

But his masterpieces do not materialize with just a flick of a wand. This young upcycling artist's restorations are diligently crafted right out of his converted garage workspace.

How would you describe the kind of furniture that you make?
It's classified as vintage functional art piece.

Do you have a formal arts background?
[No.] I'm a Marketing graduate. [Making restored furniture is] just a hobby.

What's the story behind your very first piece?
It all started as a gift for a friend. I made her a suitcase speaker.

What do you upcycle?
[I often use] amplifiers, speakers, 12-volt Nicad batteries—all from Raon, Quiapo—and an old suitcase from surplus.

Any favorite among your works so far?
My own version of bathtub couch and chairs

Where can we see or buy your designs?
As of the moment, my workshop is my showroom. I converted our garage into a work studio. You can also see my works on my Tumblr account *upcycleph.tumblr.com* and on my Instagram *@Pacopacopili*.

/SpeedMagazinePH @SpeedMagazine @SpeedMagazine

What's your dream project?
I would like to see my upcycled works in public parks or in malls.

What tools can we see in your showroom?
I use Bosch tools. I recommend Bosch for its good performance and good work results.

Do you plan to expand to other types of furniture?
It's already what I'm [trying to] do now.

What other kinds of work do you get into?
I'm [usually] tinkering my 25-year-old van. Yeah, I'm an old soul.

What do you usually post on social media?
I post my upcycled works on Instagram and Tumblr every once in a while.

What accounts do you follow on Instagram?
[Any account] that is inspirational and has the same interest [as I do]. Pinterest is also good for design inspirations.

Any hobbies or other interests?
I'm always on auctions, thrift shops, *ukay-ukay*, and surplus looking for an item that has potential to be upcycled. I'm [also] a dog lover; I have a beagle. [And] I love running. I run every night.

What are your everyday gadgets?
My Samsung GALAXY Note and my Fujifilm X-A1 camera

What's the one gadget that you can't leave home without?
Cellphone car charger

What are on top of your gadget wishlist?
Latest Samsung phone and a portable Bosch grinder

What are your favorite mobile apps?
Houzz and Tinder (I just swipe left)

What do you wish should have been invented by now?
Free electricity

GEEK-SPOTTING

CZARINA S. CONSTANTINO
Training Specialist I
Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, Inc.

CHRISTOF RELLERA
3D printing entrepreneur
Dreambuild 3D Technologies
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Everyday gadgets:
Cellphone, camera, GoPro Hero3, and Haribon Foundation's Biodiversity on Wheels (BOW) van

What gadgets do you have on your workstation?
Whenever I implement a BOW program in schools and communities, my usual workstation includes a big TV, a laptop, big speakers, my GoPro Hero3, and my lecture on Philippine biodiversity.

Most used apps on your phone?
Right now, it would be maps.me because it helps me navigate and remember the places that the BOW van has visited.

In what other ways do you help the environment?
[I] choose to live a sustainable lifestyle [by using] containers when buying food, choosing to walk for short distance travels, eating local, doing nature activities, and biking to work, among others.

Ah, biking. Some of us in *Speed* are embracing the lifestyle as well.
I join co-Haribon employees in their bike rides for exercise, company, and the feeling of freedom. I have a folding bike, which I got from my sister, and it has gone to places like Commonwealth, Philipp's Sanctuary, and even conquered Timberland. I plan to join folding bike trips soon.

What makes up your biking gear?
When you bike, you just have to wear a helmet, bring a lot of courage, and always stay alert.

Are you eyeing a gadget to add to your gear?
I want to have a waterproof phone with a good camera so that I can capture moments in the water and on wet days.

Speaking of phones, what app would you want developed if you had the chance?
I remember conceptualizing the Online/Offline Wildlife Citizen's Report App (OW CRApp) with Haribon to improve the management and sharing of data on wildlife trafficking by providing a platform for the general public to share sightings of questionable wildlife activities in their area. With the gathered data from the general public, we can map poaching hotspots and trafficking routes that will guide government and concerned agencies on arresting these law violators. I'm still hoping that somebody will fund Haribon to implement this program.

A noble cause, if you ask us. Being the expert, what do you think is the biggest environmental problem in our country?
Among the biggest environmental problems I have observed are apathy and ignorance. Most humans have detached themselves from the environment, not knowing that everything we need to survive comes from it.

3D printing is very new in the market. What got you to seriously dive into it so early?
I felt that 3D printing is something so revolutionary and innovative, and our country is still lagging behind in the widespread use of this technology. I saw that it is an opportunity for me to be one of the first few people here doing 3D printing, so I just went right in and hoped that I could spread more awareness about its use in the Philippines.

Walk us through your typical designing and 3D printing routine.
All you need to have is a 3D model design you want to be printed, a 3D printer, and a spool of plastic filament material for printing. The 3D model can be created through most 3D modeling software such as CAD, Maya, Sketch Up, and such. Generally, 3D printers require the 3D model file to be in ".stl" format which is easy to "export as" now in most 3D software. You can make the 3D model yourself if you know how or [you can] hire someone to make it for you.

How can 3D printing be a more environment-friendly alternative?
There are lots of material wastes in 3D printing, but there have been new innovations in 3D printing geared toward a plastic material called PLA, which stands for "polylactic acid." PLA is actually a biodegradable thermoplastic based on cornstarch and other renewable sources. This material is quite common now, affordable, and widely used by most people doing 3D printing. There are also new machines coming out in the future addressing the problem of plastic waste by grinding the waste and melting them back into a reusable filament form for 3D printing. Hopefully, 3D printing will generate zero percent waste in the near future.

That sounds very promising. If you can 3D print anything using any material, what would it be?
I think it would most probably be food, which is actually a reality now. Can't wait to print my own pizza in the next few years with a food printer!

Please promise to invite us over when you have pizza ready! When hanging out in your room, what gadgets will we stumble upon?
My Bose SLII speakers, earphones, iPhone, Microsoft Surface Pro, and a 3D printer. (I don't have a TV or gaming console in my room, unfortunately.)

What are the gadgets you can't leave home without?
My iPhone and my Microsoft Surface Pro

What gadget or technology should have been invented by now?
Free Wi-Fi all over the world, real Hoverboards, and flying cars.

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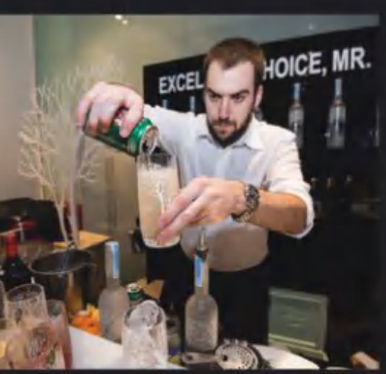
LICENSED TO THRILL

Aston Martin Manila opens posh showroom

AS PART OF ASTON MARTIN'S EXPANSION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION, THE BRITISH LUXURY MARQUE OFFICIALLY OPENED ITS DEALERSHIP IN MANILA LAST SEPTEMBER 16. The state-of-the-art showroom is located at the Ground Floor of Fifth Avenue Building, 5th Avenue corner 32nd Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Bridgestone Philippines head Marc Tagle and Wellington Soong, the father of high-end automotive brands in the Philippines, are the men behind the DBPhils Motorsports Incorporated, which handles the distribution and import process for Aston Martin Manila.



Aston Martin Manila will be offering its full range of grand tourers in the Philippines—the Vantage S, the DB9, the four-door Rapide S, and the ultimate in sporting luxury: the Vanquish. Tagle also confirmed that orders have been taken on models even before the official opening of the dealership, including the 100-unit limited production Vantage GT12.

Aston Martin Manila will also offer door-to-door pickup and delivery services for maintenance and repairs of customers' vehicles. Owners can rest assured that their cars will be maintained by Aston Martin-certified technicians using the brand's latest diagnostic equipment and tools.

SUZUKI

THE NEW

Address

DEBUT!

A GLOBAL SUZUKI SCOOTER

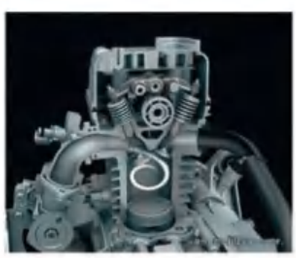
INTRODUCTORY PROMO

FREE

Actual colors of promo items may vary based on availability.

SUZUKI Fi FUEL INJECTION

POWERFUL 113CC ENGINE
AT LOW FUEL CONSUMPTION



SEP
SUZUKI ECO PERFORMANCE

20L UTILITY BOX
20L UTILITY BOX CAN ACCOMMODATE A FULL FACE HELMET

REAR BRAKE LOCK SYSTEM

CENTRALIZED LOCKING SYSTEM

Promo runs from August 20 - December 31, 2015
Per DTI IV-A Permit No. 12-360 series of 2015

SUZUKI'S TRIPLE THREAT REGIONAL LAUNCHES HELD IN 35 AREAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 1,300 DEALERSHIPS AND OVER 3,000 SALES FRONTLINERS!

After the successful media launch, Japanese giant reached for the key cities of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao for the regional launch of Suzuki's Triple Threat – the Address, Gixxer and AX4. Suzuki also invaded the key cities of the country roaming around its vast dealership through the Suzuki's Triple Threat Territorial Launch held in Baguio, Dagupan, Cabanatuan, Roxas, Pampanga, Ilocos, Isabela, Laguna, Batangas, Lucena, Palawan, Tayabas, Pinamalayan, Naga, Legazpi, Tacloban, Roxas, Iloilo, Bacolod, Butuan, South Cotabato, Cagayan de Oro and Pagadian.

Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki, President of Suzuki Philippines Inc. attended the event and gamely appeared with make-up on when he presented the new Suzuki Address.

Kyle Vergara and Brazille Mae Pango - the faces of the new Address also graced the event with their presence and presented the unique selling points of the global scooter that are fitted to the active lifestyle of the Filipino youth.

SUZUKI PRODUCT ORIENTATION

Suzuki presented in their product orientation its triple threat to the market - the Address, Gixxer and AX4. The global brand also introduced its new technology, the SEP Fi = Suzuki Eco Performance System coupled with Fuel-injection technology that is made to achieve the best of both worlds - maximum power and optimum fuel-efficicency.

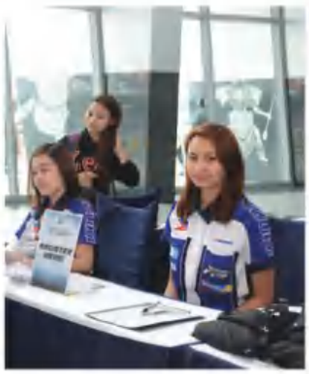
During the presentation, exciting promotional items that come with every purchase of the new products were also showcased such as the colorful Address Hoodie that one can own upon purchase of the brand's latest scooter.

Guests were also given the chance to test ride the new Suzuki models during the event.

Suzuki and dealer frontliners had a happy time with fun games and exciting surprises strengthening more their friendship and good working relationship.

Solid Motorcycle Distributors Inc. President Mr. Pablo Chu supported Suzuki's regional launch held in Roxas City.

Royce Motorcycle Trade Corporation's President Mr. Antonio Chua Jr. and Ms. Mary Rose Gallo, Executive Assistant, supported Suzuki's regional launch in Cabanatuan City!



SUZUKI'S TRIPLE THREAT REGIONAL LAUNCHES HELD IN 35 AREAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 1,300 DEALERSHIPS AND OVER 3,000 SALES FRONTLINERS!

Suzuki Philippines' Motorcycle Division General Manager for Sales and Marketing Mr. jun Bulot explaining the effectiveness of displaying the new Suzuki motorcycle mode.ls in the stores with the Suzuki Moto Center display module and Dealer Banner Stand. The brand also encourage its partner dealers to ensure that they have the complete display units by utilising the Suzuki No Display Buster truck.

SUZUKI MOTO CENTER DISPLAY MODULE

SUZUKI DEALER BANNER STAND

Suzuki Philippines also awarded its Fi Master achievers during the regional launch events. The Fi Master program is part of Suzuki's long-term plan to train its frontliners to better understand the Suzuki Fuel-injection system. Fi Masters were given rewards upon finishing a specific set of training course and meeting sales targets.

Solid Motorcycle Distributors Inc. President Mr. Pablo Chu supported Suzuki's regional launch held in Roxas City.

SUZUKI

THE NEW GIXER DEBUT!

BRACE FOR AN EXHILARATING RIDE

POWERFUL 155cc SUZUKI ENGINE

with Suzuki Eco Performance to deliver a smooth running condition at low fuel consumption.

SEP
SUZUKI ECO PERFORMANCE

DUAL-TYPE EXHAUST MUFFLER

Dual-outlet muffler (first in Suzuki's small motorcycles) is designed for high exhaust efficiency

MONO-SHOCK SUSPENSION

Mono-shock rear suspension for better riding comfort and handling stability.

FULL-DIGITAL INSTRUMENT PANEL

Flat panel design looks like a smartphone. Engine RPM indicator is the same Hayabusa and GSX-R1000 in specification.

SUZUKI

Maagang Pamasko Combo Regalo 2015

Smash 115.

SUZUKI FI FUEL INJECTION
RAIDER J 115 FI

GET THESE!

COMBO REGALO

Smash 115.

SUZUKI JACKET

GET THESE FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF SMASH 115

RAIDER J 115 FI

SPALDING SPORTS WATCH

GET THESE FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF OF RAIDER J 115 FI

Promo period: January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015
Per DTI IV-A Permit No. 12-360, series of 2014
ASC no. S039P1007155

SUZUKI

RAIDER J115Fi

Moto GP Edition DEBUT

SUZUKI Fi FUEL INJECTION

Maagang Pamasko Combo Regalo 2015

FREE!

SPALDING
SPORTS WATCH

SUZUKI HELMET

Promo Duration: June 26 - August 31, 2015.
Per DTI IV-A Permit No.: 06-228 Series of 2015

Actual item/s may vary depending on material and availability.

SUZUKI

Maagang Pamasko Combo Regalo 2015

RAIDER R150 Premium Color

PLUS!
RAIDER R150 LANYARD

GET
PREMIUM COLOR JACKET

Promo period: September 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015
Per DTI IV-A Permit No. 08-347, series of 2015
ASC no: S042P1007155

COME AND CHECK OUT THE NEW SUZUKI PREMIUM COLOR MODELS IN THE MOTOGP TENT AT YOUR NEAREST SUZUKI DEALERS NATIONWIDE!

SUZUKI

Maagang Pamasko Combo Regalo 2015

RAIDER R150

Moto GP Edition DEBUT

FREE! Moto GP POLO SHIRT

WITH EVERY PURCHASE OF THE NEW RAIDER R150

PLUS! RAIDER R150 LANYARD

Promo period: September 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015
Per DTI IV-A Permit No. 08-347, series of 2015
ASC no: S042P1007155

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DID YOU KNOW?

AROUND 41.9 MILLION TONS OF E-WASTE ARE PRODUCED AROUND THE WORLD EVERY YEAR, MAKING ELECTRONIC WASTE THE LARGEST GROWING WASTE STREAM IN THE WORLD.

So before chucking last year's iPhone model or your old non-curved OLED TV to the trash bin, think and look for ways to reuse, recycle, or upcycle your tech toy (check out UP Circuit's The E-Waste Project at *facebook.com/TheEwasteProject*). Do not simply sell them to junk shops either, as improper disposal of parts and components can pose threats to health and the environment.

manual

From your toilets to Manila Bay

A dirty look at the wastewater going out of your house

VAL J. GONZALES

YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE BUT YOU GENERATE FILTHY STUFF THAT HARMS THE ENVIRONMENT EVERY TIME YOU CLEAN YOURSELF UP.

Fifty five Filipinos die every day because they don't have access to improved sanitation, as reported by the National Sewerage and Septage Management Program (NSSMP).

Half of the Philippines' groundwater supply is contaminated due to poorly constructed septic tanks, according to a 2009 study by the Asian Development Bank.

Do you still want to get your water from a deep well?

Diseases that cause illnesses and death breed rapidly due to this lack of proper sanitation facilities. This is why the United Nations, together with the world's major development agencies, have given special attention to the sanitation problem by including it in the world's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This is a problem that can only be solved if everybody understood the root cause and its devastating effects.

WHAT IS WASTEWATER?

Wastewater is water that has become unfit for consumption or reuse. It is technically any water that has degraded in quality because of direct or indirect contamination by humans. Yes, humans only.

We generate domestic wastewater when we brush our teeth, take a shower, flush the toilet, wash the dishes, and wash the car. The chemicals we use in cleaning our bodies pollute the water. The food residue from used plates contains oil and grease that make water yucky. *Kadiri.*

We generate agricultural wastewater when we raise cattle, farm for eggs, build fishponds, and irrigate the rice fields. Animal wastes and fertilizers make the water unpleasant to be recycled or reused.

Heavy rains contribute to stormwater that is collected by street drainage systems. However, small pieces of trash and dirt are also sucked into the underground pipes, making stormwater another wastewater source.

By building factories, we generate industrial wastewater that is too dirty to touch. In fact, you could say it's not water anymore.

By building crowded cities with dirty slums, we have perfected the art of converting clean, natural water into a form of waste.

And so it goes that the more water we use, the more wastewater we generate!

CLEANING UP OUR ACTS

In Metro Manila, clean water is pumped into our homes by Manila Water and Maynilad. One pipe may lead to our toilets, and another to the kitchen and other parts of the house.

What happens when you flush the toilet? Ideally, the wastewater should lead to the septic tank hidden underground. Inside the tank, solids settle to the bottom and scum floats to the surface. Bacteria develops inside the tank and decomposes the solids.

A clearer water should be found floating in the middle part. This goes through another pipe and drains out to the soil around the tank. The impurities are trapped in the soil while the rest of the water seeps to the ground, to be evaporated by the sun, or to be absorbed by the roots of the trees.

The tank eventually fills up. It is recommended to call your water utility to drain your septic tanks once every five years. While pozo negro service providers offer to do this, some don't have facilities to handle the waste and just dump them back into the rivers at night.

In modern suburbs and developed cities, households connect their toilets to the sewerage system and eliminate the need to maintain a septic tank. A central treatment facility takes care of the wastewater.

Meanwhile, water from the kitchen and other parts of the house goes to a separate line. Ideally, grease is trapped first under your sinks because oil solidifies and may clog up the pipes. (Think of cholesterol clogging up your arteries.) The wastewater then drains out to a pipe connected to the city or barangay sewer.

WASTE FIGHTERS

There are two ways of treating wastewater, and the teams doing the work are made up of different elements. But both teams have the same goal: turn wastewater back into water that is not harmful.

The sun, Earth's gravity, microorganisms, and the precious soil make up the primary team needed to clean up wastewater. These are used in on-site treatment facilities like the septic tank. While these elements may be very inexpensive and nearly free solutions, they take a long time to clean the wastewater.

The secondary team is composed of machines. Centralized treatment plants, like the one built in Taguig, are very efficient in the treatment of huge quantities of wastewater on a daily basis.

NEW ROADS TO CLEAN WATER

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funds programs that address sanitation concerns, especially in the developing countries of Asia. One of their interesting programs is the research on omniprocessors (OP), a kind of technology that treats fecal sludge, which is what we know as poop waste.

In Metro Manila, water concessionaires have started to operate modern wastewater treatment plants. They are also active in the drive to clean up major waterways like the Pasig River and the Estero de Paco.

We as water consumers and wastewater generators should do our part and mind the wastewater that we produce. We need to connect our homes to sewerage systems if they are available, or build a proper septic tank, if not. We should call the water utility to desludge our tanks ASAP if there are problems in flushing our toilets.

Returning water back to its natural state is a must for a sustainable future.

BRING NATURE INTO THE OFFICE

Tips for a greener workspace

Words **JOHN SOSMEÑA**

Going green and being one with nature is definitely a must these days. But you can't always hit the road, go to the beach, or move to the jungle, so here are some friendly tips of the trade to get your office setup a touch of green.

GO GREEN

Have a greener workspace by adding greens indoors. Fresh, live plants that thrive under low-maintenance conditions provide a refreshing change of scenery and VOC reduction. Here are some plant suggestions you can try setting up around your workspace:

GET CRAFTY

Sustainable interior design is also a key component in making your office space more environment-friendly (both physically and mentally). Take these simple, cost-efficient and fun renovations you can try out with your co-workers.

- **Go colorful on surface design**. It's a psychological fact! It's time we stop spending eight hours in a black-and-white corporate film and start painting the office yellow for the sun, light blue for the sky, or green for some vegetation.
- **Grab the sunlight on your skin**. Move your desk closer to the window and catch as much sun as you can. Not only does a brighter environment open up your mind, the sunlight is said to put you in a happier mood and can make you healthier (except for skin-cancer levels, of course).
- **Insulate and ventilate**. Bring the air on. Good airflow means that all the carbon emissions are dispersed, leaving you breathing lighter and better.

GO GREEN WITH TECH

Words **ANTONIO JOSE GALAURAN**

After the sudden technological boom in the past centuries, nature took a deep blow. Massive industrial wastes were produced and greenhouse gases polluted the atmosphere.

But the world can still recreate a green world.

Going green doesn't necessarily mean we should cut off technology from our daily lives. Here, we enumerate some alternative innovations and lifestyle options that enable you to go green without throwing away tech out of the room.

LED the way

Consider turning your home or office into an LED-powered structure. LED light is one of the most popular lighting alternatives in recent years. Not only do LED lights have an outstanding operating life (approximately 20,000 to 50,000 hours), but they are also more energy-efficient compared with conventional bulbs.

LED lights convert approximately 80 percent of the electricity it receives into light, leaving only 20 percent left to heat energy. In contrast, traditional incandescent bulbs are said to operate only with 20 percent energy efficiency. LED lights are also free from toxic chemicals such as mercury, making them safer to dispose later on.

Go solar

Most electricity powering homes today are extracted by power plants from oil, coal, and natural gas. While highly effective energy producers, these fossil fuels emit large amounts of greenhouse gases and are rapidly depleting by the minute.

With solar technology, you get a nearly unlimited source of energy from the sun, making it a more sustainable option. Going solar can reduce dependence on burning fossil fuels thereby helping reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases.

The world is rapidly growing solar. As of late, beyond the usual large solar panels on top of roofs, solar-powered products are increasingly becoming portable. Solar chargers, fans, lights, and other gadgets are quickly becoming a trend, making it easier by the minute to go solar.

QUICK TIPS!

RECHARGE BATTERIES
As much as possible, instead of purchasing disposable alkaline batteries, buy rechargeable ones to cut back on land fill waste.

UNPLUG
Keep in mind that several AC adapters continue to draw current when plugged, wasting small amounts of energy. To remedy, adapt the habit of always pulling from the plug to cut back your power usage even by meager amounts.

REUSE
Some electronics can be recycled or chopped into parts. Before throwing away your old gadgets, consider selling or donating.

http://www.123rf.com/profile_chuyu

GREEN ON WHEELS

AVOID OVERSPEEDING
You may love the adrenaline of speedy driving, but remember that the faster you go, the more fuel is wasted.

TAKE A TRIP DOWN YOUR LOCAL SERVICE
Out of shape car parts make your car engine work harder, so ensure that your car is always in top condition for it to be efficient.

TURN OFF ENGINE WHEN NOT IN USE
When you're waiting idly by the roadside, you probably tend to not turn off the engine no matter how long it takes. But sometimes, do consider turning it off and going down for a stroll for a few minutes to avoid burning unnecessary fuel. Not only do you save Mother Earth, but you may also shed a couple of pounds.

CHECK YOUR TIRES REGULARLY
Always check your tire pressure and condition. The daily wear and tear plus the changing weather can cause your tires to lose pressure. Improperly inflated tires have more rolling resistance, while proper tire pressure can improve your gas mileage. Do the math and save your fuel.

LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD
A heavily laden car needs more power to roll the wheels. Take out unnecessary stuff from your car and leave only the essential tools for your daily needs.

Watch the label
When buying household appliances, watch for the Energy Star label. Energy Star is a voluntary program by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that grants labels to products that pass rigid energy efficiency tests.

Energy Star-rated appliances are typically more efficient than their traditional counterparts. For instance, Energy Star refrigerators must be at least 20 percent more energy efficient than a conventional refrigerator.

According to Energy Star, if 1 out of 10 homes is to use Energy Star-approved appliances, annual greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by up to 13 billion pounds, or equivalent to the emission of 1.2 million cars.

Mind the design
Appliances also have varying designs, with some models sporting greener features albeit being sold at a higher price. Take inverter-type refrigerators and air-conditioning units for example. Although more expensive, inverters can adjust the compressor's power depending on the needed temperature, whereas conventional appliances have a fixed-speed compressor that can only be turned on or off, consuming more electricity.

In the washer category, front load washing machines tend to be more efficient than top load washers. Because of the horizontal configuration of the drum, front load washers typically require less water and energy to cover all your clothes. In addition, most front load washers offer more room, allowing you to wash more clothes in a single load.

Be smart
While you're away, you can remotely control smart appliances, whether to turn them off in case you forgot to, increase the air conditioner's temperature when you leave the room, or receive alerts when something is leaking.

Smart appliances—from thermostats, to refrigerators, washing machines, and air conditioning units—are equipped with high-tech sensors and advanced algorithms. Beyond giving you control from your mobile device, smart devices can now record your usage pattern, automatically adjusting your appliances' performance.

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2 | EASY ROCK | DWRK 96.3 | 134 | 19%
3 | YES FM | DWYS 101.1 | 107 | 15%
4 | WIN RADIO | DWKY 91.5 | 68 | 9%
5 | NEWS FM | DWFM 92.3 | 52 | 7%
6 | MOR | DWRR 101.9 | 34 | 5%
Source: Nielsen Media Vehicle Coincidental Study (Dec 2014)
Base: Among Private Car Owners who listen to FM Radio
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1 | LOVE RADIO | DZMB 90.7 | 98 | 20%
2 | EASY ROCK | DWRK 96.3 | 71 | 15%
3 | MOR | DWRR 101.9 | 49 | 10%
4 | YES FM | DWYS 101.1 | 41 | 9%
5 | NEWS FM | DWFM 92.3 | 32 | 7%
6 | WIN RADIO | DWKY 91.5 | 30 | 6%
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TRASH KILLS

Words **PAT CALICA**
Artwork **MELAI BALITAAN**

Chuck a plastic bottle in the bin and you're more or less assured that it will be properly collected. But what happens to the candy wrapper you conveniently drop while walking on the street or to that used straw you throw out of your car window? How about the garbage that's not disposed, segregated, and recycled?

See where your trash may end up and whose lives it may endanger when carelessly and improperly discarded.

TRASH OR REHASH

Cataloging your mini junk shop at home

Words **PAT CALICA**
Infographic **MELAI BALITAAN**

We're pretty sure that there's a little corner somewhere in your house where you stack used bottles, old containers, and scratch papers waiting for the day you can pass them to recyclers. You look forward to the "*bote-dyaryo*" cry from your regular junk collector, only to learn that he won't relieve your hand of everything.

Clueless why? Not all junk are created equal. Some cannot be recycled, while others need more than just your neighborhood junk shop's help. Tip: categorize your junk at home—which of them is more likely to turn into cash (read: coins), which can still be used in other ways, and which ones you need avoid accumulating.

LDPE (low-density polyethylene)
plastic cling wraps, sandwich bags, squeezable bottles, plastic grocery bags

- not commonly recycled
- does not leach chemicals to food/drink
- used for food storage

garbage cans, lumber, furniture

PP (polypropylene)
plastic diapers, margarine containers, syrup/prescription bottles, plastic tumblers, plastic bottle caps

- not commonly recycled
- strong
- can withstand higher temperatures

battery cables, ice scrapers

PVC (polyvinyl chloride)
PVC pipes and tiles

- not commonly recycled
- harmful when ingested

flooring, industrial-grade items

PET/PETE (Polyethylene terephthalate)
water/soda bottles, peanut butter jars, plastic combs, bean bags, ropes

- commonly recycled
- absorbs odors and flavors of food or drink stored in them

tote bags, carpet, fiber fills for sleeping bags or life jackets

HDPE (high-density polyethylene)
milk container, motor oil/shampoo/conditioner containers, soap/detergent/bleach bottles, plastic toys

- commonly recycled
- does not leach chemicals into food or drink contained in it
- never use to store food/drink if original content is not edible

plastic crates, plastic lumber, fences

NOTE IT!
Paper products are 100 percent recyclable and undergo similar recycling process, but they are sorted according to paper grade, which has its own end use.

Old corrugated containers: boxes and product packaging
Mixed paper: mail, catalogs, phone books, magazines
Lower grade paper: old newspapers, used to make more newsprint, tissues
High grade deinked paper: paper that has undergone the printing process and had the ink removed, turned into writing or printing papers
Pulp substitutes: discarded scraps from paper mills

Other plastics (polycarbonate, polylactide)
feeding bottles, water gallons, CDs

- difficult to recycle

plastic lumbers

PS (polystyrene)
disposable coffee cups, plastic food boxes, plastic cutlery, packing foam/peanuts

- can be recycled, but not efficiently
- known as Styrofoam

insulation, rulers

© Mia Balitaan

Glass bottles/containers
Wine bottles, mason jars

- commonly recycled
- sorted first according to color before recycling
- sorted according to the type of glass: windows, ovenware, Pyrex, crystal, etc.

glass container/bottle

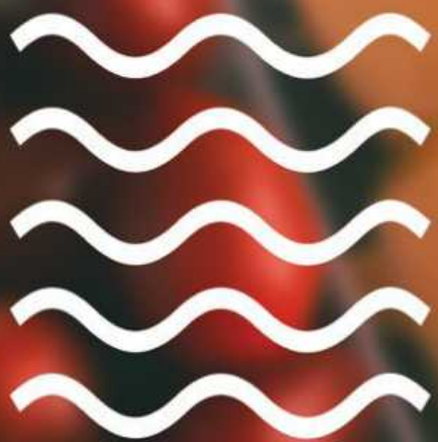
KNOW YOUR PLASTICS

Plastic container symbols

Words **JOHN SOSMEÑA**
Infographic **MELAI BALITAAN**

There may be greener alternatives to using plastic containers, but reusing them for food and liquid is still a huge part of our culture. What we can do is use them in the right way. Get to know some of the symbols on your food and liquid containers to make sure that you don't break your microwaves—or your stomachs.

Seeing this symbol on your plastic container means that your food is safe to store here. Pack up and bring them to your picnic.



This symbol means that the container is safe to use in a microwave oven. Reheat food with no worries and no unnecessary explosions in your kitchen. Make sure, however, to check the number of times you can use it in the microwave oven.

When you see a snowflake, you think of ice. This symbol assures you that the container is safe for storage in the freezer. Keep meats frozen and safe to cook for another day.

This means that your plastic containers can sit safely in the dishwasher. Easy cleaning!

IS YOUR PLASTIC SAFE?

Not all plastics are created equal. Look for these symbols to know whether the container is safe for putting food and drinks in or is something you should stay away from.

1 PETE
That orange juice you're drinking or peanut butter you just bought is most probably in a polyethylene terepthalate ethylene container.

2 HDPE
High density polyethylene is used in making milk bottles and the like.

3 PVC/ V
Your shampoo is probably stored in bottles made of polyvinyl chloride.

4 LDPE
Who doesn't love resealable sandwich bags? Give thanks to low density polyethylene for their existence.

5 PP
Plastic straws use Polypropylene.

6 PS
Egg cartons and styrofoam are made of polystyrene. You don't eat them, do you?

7 OTHER
Any resin or plastic mixture that you can't quite put your finger on.

BRUISED AND BADLY BROKEN

Q Hi, *Speed*! I recently broke my smartphone's LCD screen. Drat! While a trip to a local phone repair shop is always a go-to option, I was just wondering if there's a more economical or DIY way to repair LCD screens since LCD repairs do really cost quite a sum of money. I'm sure a lot your readers, at least once in their life, have gone through the same trouble.

Thanks, *Speed*, and more power to your magazine!

Marlon Nombrado

A *Hi, Marlon.*

How badly damaged is your phone's screen? Are we talking about minor scratches or does the display sport more cracks than a frozen lake in springtime? Worse, is your phone's display too badly broken that you need to replace it altogether?

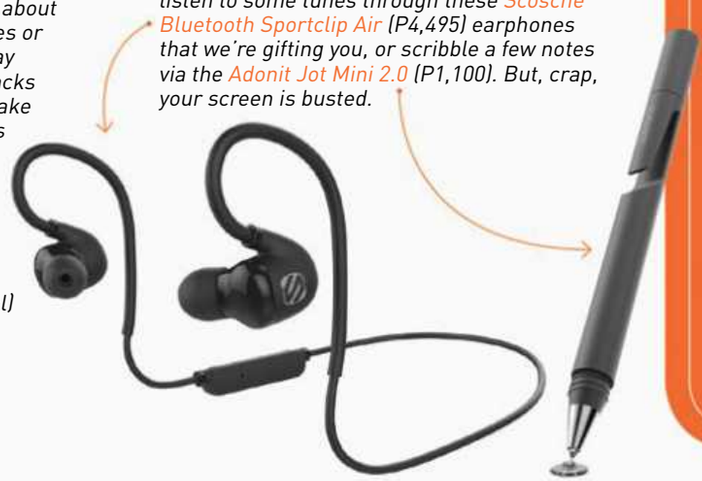
If you're dealing with minor scratches, you can remedy your problem with toothpaste or baking soda. Squeeze a small dot of (non-gel) toothpaste onto a clean polishing cloth or cotton swab. Gently rub it on to the screen in a circular motion, and make sure you do not remove any surface coating. Wipe your screen down with a slightly damp cloth. If you don't have a non-gel toothpaste, you can make a thick paste out of baking soda and water (2 parts baking soda, 1 part water). Do the same procedure.

Now, if your smartphone's screen is so cracked, don't fret just yet. You can still repair it on your own by buying kits and a new screen. They usually come complete with all the tools you need (screwdriver kit, specialty screw heads, and screen pry tools). Make sure you watch reputable repair manual websites such as iFixit (ifixit.com) and tutorial videos online.

Take note, though, that tinkering with your phone is risky business. There's a chance that you'll damage it even further. If you don't feel comfortable opening your smartphone, don't. Don't say we didn't warn you.

You see, fixing a broken screen is like fixing a broken heart—it can be either fairly easy and cheap or extremely expensive. But rather than taking matters into your own hands, better learn to let go and have faith in other people (i.e., professionals). Bring your smartphone to a service center or repairman and find out if this tech love affair still has a fighting chance.

While waiting for it to come back to life, listen to some tunes through these Scosche Bluetooth Sportclip Air (P4,495) earphones that we're gifting you, or scribble a few notes via the Adonit Jot Mini 2.0 (P1,100). But, crap, your screen is busted.



SELECTIVE AMNESIA

Dear *Speed*,

Help! My girlfriend and I were reading through my Facebook News Feed together when the site's "On This Day" feature showed up with a picture of me and my ex from four years ago. Obviously, there was a moment of awkwardness. Actually, it felt like forever, and I just wanted the world to open up and swallow me whole. *Paano ba tanggalin itong feature na 'to*?! Or is there a way to block out certain memories?

Josh

Ah! Selective memory erasure a la Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind. Yes, fortunately for all of us, Facebook has made it possible to block out unpleasant memories. Go to your "On This Day" page under the Apps section of your Facebook News Feed, click on the preferences button, and block memories by person or by date.

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Young women called to join IT work force

ACKNOWLEDGING THE GENDER DISPARITY IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY, Microsoft addressed students at Tech Femme 2015 event to inspire more women to assume leadership roles.

Held at the University of the Philippines in Diliman with the theme #SheCanDoIt, Tech Femme 2015 Philippines called on young female millennials to change their views of the tech industry to break stereotypes and inject more diversity in this field.

Microsoft Philippines General Manager Karrie Ilagan opened the highly anticipated Tech Femme forum with an inspiring keynote speech. "I manage the local subsidiary of one of the biggest technology companies in the world. Yes, I am a woman who's proud to be an IT professional," Ilagan said. "The IT industry needs more of you. We need your perspective, your ideas, and your creativity," she added.

Connected ride with Smart, Uber

How many hours of your day are wasted sitting idly in traffic jams? Don't you wish you can become more productive while in transit? Or at least just while away the time surfing the 'net to make Metro Manila traffic a bit more bearable?

Smart Communications, Inc., together with PLDT and Voyager Innovations, announced their partnership with Uber Philippines to bring comfort and convenience to the commuting public.

The first-of-its-kind partnership in Southeast Asia introduces free in-car Wi-Fi with Uber and special promotions for Uber riders on Smart's network.

Uber riders can enjoy free in-car Wi-Fi, powered by Smart and PLDT. This service is initially available in select Uber Black vehicles, and will roll out in all Uber vehicles over the next months. Uber riders on Smart's network will be able to avail special promotions, discounts, and on-demand experiences.

Uber partner drivers, on the other hand, get exclusive voice and data packages, bundles, and add-ons. Smart SIM cards, as well as special handsets and tablets are also made available via an Uber online store using the Tack This! eCommerce platform from Voyager Innovations. Uber partner drivers can access the shop once they are accredited by Uber.

For your ears only

SONY PH, BLACK MARKET BRING SILENT PARTIES TO MANILA

Sony Philippines and local club Black Market have partnered to bring a unique listening experience to the country.

From September 2015 to March 2016, Sony and Black Market will host a series of Silent Parties in Metro Manila for fans of the underground Filipino music scene and other staunch audiophiles.

The Silent Party concept follows the same format as Sony's groundbreaking Silent Concert held in 2014. From the outside looking in, guests will see musicians performing for a crowd wearing headphones, dancing and grooving to "silence." To hear the music, the audience needs to use one of the available headphones.

Ranging from hip-hop, house, or even jazz, the Silent Parties will feature some of the Philippines' best underground music talents such as The Zombettes, Skratchmark, Italo, Yana, Vince Pante, and David Sorrenti.

Visit *sony.com.ph* or *blackmarketmnl.com* for more information on the Silent Party and the schedule of succeeding shows and performers.

Bomberg opens flagship store

Swiss watch brand Bomberg, known for its out-of-the-box and edgy style, opened its first boutique in the country.

The 26.97-square meter store located at the Upper Ground Floor of Robinsons Magnolia boasts of the same intriguing exuberance the brand is known for. The boutique will immerse customers in the brand's unique shopping experience with a new concept: classy and inspired by *le cabinet de curiosité*. There is an interaction of different materials like wood, glass, and metal and a color range from sand to brown to black.

Salomon CityTrail Manila 2015

SALOMON HOLDS SUNSET RUN IN INTRAMUROS

Salomon's adventure-filled city trail run has come to the Philippines for the second time with the CityTrail Manila 2015.

Held last September 6, 4 p.m. in Intramuros, Manila, the race provided unconventional challenges, such as running up stairs, bridges, and ramps to simulate the different foot strides that one encounters in trail running.

Prizes were given to the top three finishers in the men's and women's divisions (6K and 12K distances), while special prizes were also given away courtesy of Salomon, Suunto, and ROX.

YAMAHA REDEFINES SPEED WITH R-DAY AND YAMAHA GP FINALS

Yamaha Motor Philippines, Inc. (YMPI) held the Grand Prix 6 finals last September 26 and 27 at the Carmona Circuit Racetrack, and took the wraps off the brand's latest racing-inspired steed, the YZF-R3.

A notch above the Yamaha YZF-R15, the YZF-R3 features a 320cc engine paired with a 6-speed multi-disc clutch. Actor JC De Vera and GP riders Masato Fernando and Vingie Coloma graced the event.

Meanwhile, coming out on top of the Grand Prix 6 finals to be part of Yamaha Team Philippines were John Emerson Inguito, Masato Fernando, James Mendez, Aljon Valencia, Victor Laude, Arlan Dela Cruz, Paul Mark Doblada, Durraine Dan Carlos, Axl Teves, and Vingie Coloma. The Grand Prix is Yamaha's grassroots program that seeks to develop local talent for international competition.

Riders also had the opportunity to learn from Yamaha Japan's top instructor Yoshiaki Kato in an exclusive racing circuit clinic where they were taught advanced skills needed during a race.

Billboard

Dell PH donates P16M to long-term charitable partners

Demonstrating its long-term commitment to bridge the digital divide, Dell Philippines donated P16 million ($359,000) to ChildHope Asia Philippines, Inc. (CHAP) and Children's Joy Foundation, Inc. (CJFI) as part of of the company's Youth Learning program. In total, 62 partners in 15 countries are working to increase access to technology and education for underserved youth.

CHAP provides street children with non-traditional education such as Alternative and Basic Education and Computer Literacy classes. An additional mobile education van with monitors, projectors, and laptops will be deployed to reach more street children from Manila, Quezon City, Caloocan, Pasay, Makati, and Parañaque.

CJFI, a recipient of Dell grant and technology solutions for almost a decade, plans to enhance its Empowering Children and Youth through Computer Literacy Program, by adding one center-based computer laboratory and two mobile computer labs to its current fleet.

Casio opens G-Factory Premium store in Greenbelt 5

Casio opened its very first G-Factory Premium store in the Philippines at the second floor of Greenbelt 5 in Makati. The Philippine store is only the second in the world, next to the first concept store launched in Singapore in 2013.

Among the watches found in the shop are the top-of-the-line G-Shock MRG-G1000 and MTG-G1000D, as well as the Gulfmaster GWN-1000, Gravitymaster GPW-1000T, Mudmaster GWG-1000, and Oceanus OCW-G1000, to name a few.

AIRASIA, NIKON AWARD THE BEST TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER

From the four office workers chosen to participate in AirAsia Travel Photographer 2015, the online votes have been tallied and 36-year-old Velvet Lagman emerged as the winner.

Mentored by Malaysian photojournalist Adam Lee, Lagman was named AirAsia's Best Travel Photographer of 2015 and was awarded with 100,000 AirAsia BIG Points and a Nikon D5500 with an 18-55mm lens kit.

The photo contest was organized by AirAsia and ThinkDharma, Inc., the exclusive distributor of Nikon Digital Cameras in the Philippines, in partnership with AirAsia BIG, the airline's global loyalty programme.

Lucky Voter Grand Prize Winner Mia Celindro also received 100,000 AirAsia BIG Points and a Nikon 1 J5, while ten other lucky voting contestants were awarded with AirAsia BIG Points plus other goodies from Nikon.

The four pre-selected contestants traveled across Asia with their coaches for one week, and were tasked to capture unforgettable moments in different categories: landscape, food, portrait, architecture, and travel.

HONDA HOLDS TMX SUPREMO RATSADA CARAVAN

Honda Philippines, Inc. and its accredited dealers in the Rizal area conducted the 2nd Generation TMX Supremo Ratsada Caravan for the province's Tricycle Operator & Drivers Association members.

Aside from a TMX Supremo display, there were seminars on Honda's products and services, a spare parts and preventive maintenance talk, free service check up for Honda motorcycle owners, demo on sidecar attachment, and test drives.

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hondaphil.com

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Starmobile
Star Telecom Alliance Resources, Inc.
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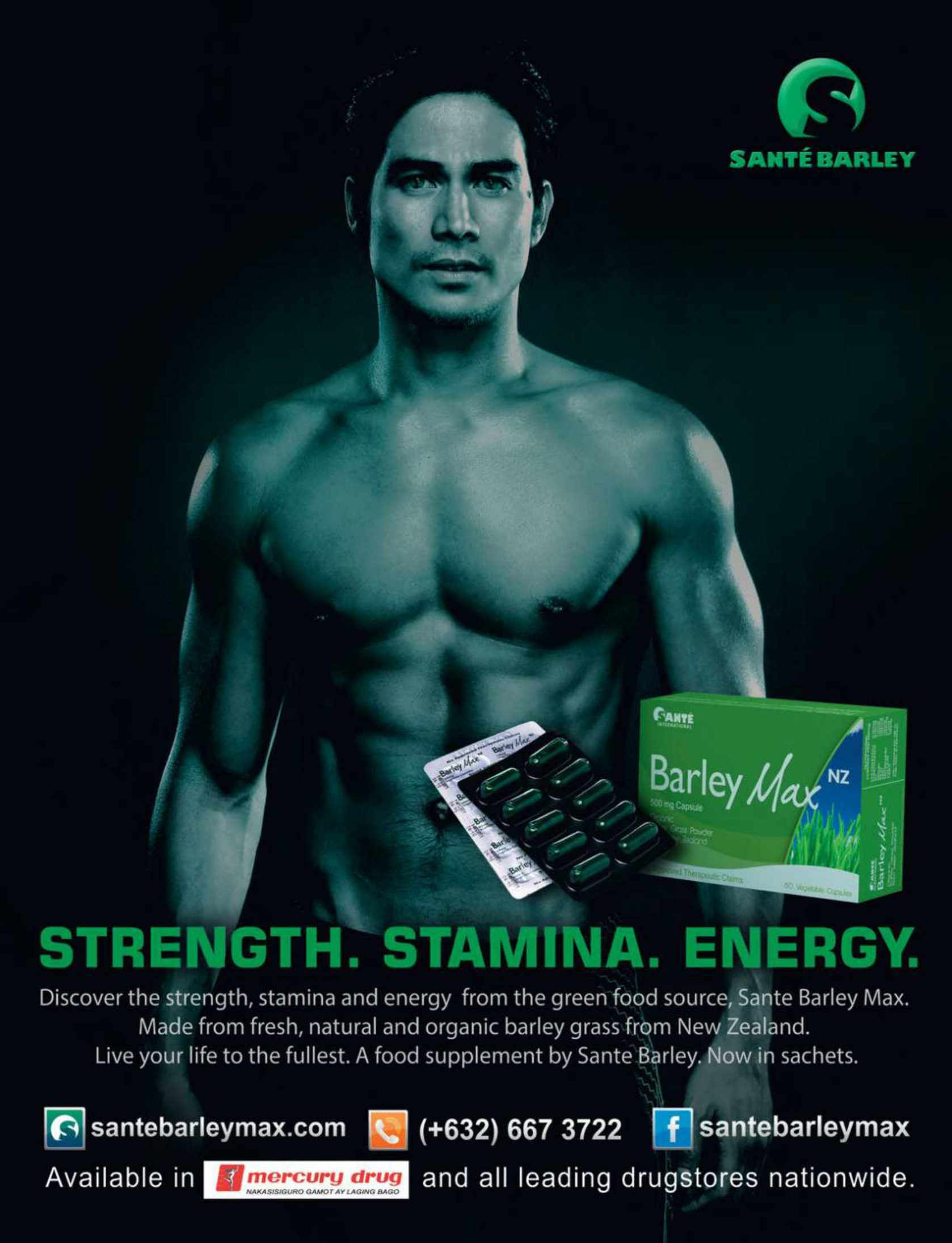

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MOBILE PHONES + TABLETS

Speed

Buyer's Guide

SAVE OR SPLURGE,
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154
UNDER P10,000

156
UNDER P20,000

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Alcatel Flash 2
P6,190
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 1.3GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6753
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5" 1280 x 720
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

ASUS Zenfone 2 (ZE500CL)
P7,995
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.6GHz 64-bit Intel Atom Z2560
- 8MP rear, 2MP front
- 5" 1280 x 720
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

ASUS Zenfone 2 (ZE551ML)
P9,995
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.8GHz 64-bit Intel Atom Z3580
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5.5" 1920 x 1080
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

ASUS Zenfone 2 Laser ZE500KL
P7,695
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 410 MSM8916
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5" 1280 x 720
- 8/16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

ASUS Zenfone 2 Laser ZE550KL
P8,695
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.2GHz octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 615 MSM8939
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5.5" 1280 x 720
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

ASUS Zenfone Go
P5,995
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6580
- 8MP rear, 2MP front
- 5" 1280 x 720
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- dual SIM

ASUS ZenPad 7.0 (Z370CG)
P7,995
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.2GHz quad-core Intel Atom x3-C3230
- 8MP rear, 2MP front
- 7" 1280 x 800
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM

ASUS ZenPad C 7.0 (Z170CG)
P5,995
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.2GHz quad-core Intel Atom x3-C3230
- 2MP rear, VGA front
- 7" 1024 x 600
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM

Cherry Mobile One
P3,999
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MTK6582m
- 5MP rear, 2MP front
- 4.5" 854 x 480
- 8GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM
- dual SIM

Cherry Mobile One G1
P5,999
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 410 MSM8916
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5" 1280 x 720
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

Happy Mobile Aspire
P6,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.7GHz octa-core ARM Cortex-A7
- 13MP rear, 8MP front
- 5.5" 720 x 1280
- 8GB built-in microSD; 2GB RAM
- dual SIM

Happy Mobile Oracle
P9,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.5GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6592
- 13MP rear, 8MP front
- 5" 1280 x 720
- 8GB built-in; 1GB RAM
- dual SIM

Huawei Honor 4C
P6,390
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.2GHz octa-core HiSilicon Kirin 620
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5" 720 x 1280
- 8GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- dual SIM

Huawei Honor 4X
P8,290
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.2GHz octa-core Cortex-A53
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5.5" 720 x 1280
- 8GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- dual SIM
- LTE

Lenovo S60
P9,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.2GHz quad-core Cortex-A53
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5" 720 x 1280
- 8GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

LG Leon
P5,990
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.2GHz quad-core Cortex-A53
- 8MP rear, VGA front
- 4.5" 480 x 854
- 8GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

LG Magna
P9,990
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.3GHz quad-core Cortex-A7- H502
- 8MP rear, 5MP front
- 5" 720 x 1280
- 8GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

Meizu M2 Note
P7,990
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.3GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6753
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5.5" 1920 x 1080
- 16GB/32GB, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

MyPhone Infinity LTE
P8,299
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 410
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5.5" 1280 x 720
- 8GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

MyPhone Rio 2
P5,499
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582
- 8MP rear, 5MP front
- 5" 720 x 1280
- 8GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM
- dual SIM

MyPhone Uno
P5,499
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek 6582
- 5MP rear, 2MP front
- 4.5" 854 x 480
- 4GB, microSD; 1GB RAM
- dual SIM

Oppo Mirror 5
P9,990
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm MSMS8916 Snapdragon 410
- 8MP rear, 5MP front
- 5" 960 x 540
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

Prestigio 5454 Duo
P8,799
- Android 4.4 Kitkat
- 1.2GHz quad-core Snapdragon 410
- 8MP rear, 2MP front
- 4.5" 960 x 540
- 8GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

Prestigio 5550 Duo
P8,999
- Android 4.4 Kitkat
- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MTK6582
- 13MP rear, 2MP front
- 5.5" 1280 x 720
- 8GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM
- dual SIM

Prestigio 8500 Duo
P9,699
- Windows Phone 8.1
- 1.2GHz quad-core Cortex-A7
- 8MP rear, 2MP front
- 5" 1280 x 720
- 8GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM
- dual SIM

Samsung GALAXY V Plus
P3,990
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.2GHz dual-core ARM Cortex-A7
- 3MP rear, VGA front
- 4" 800 x 480
- 4GB built-in, microSD; 512MB RAM
- dual SIM

Sony Xperia E4
P6,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.3GHz quad-core Cortex-A7
- 5MP rear, 2MP front
- 5" 960 x 540
- 8GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM

Starmobile UP Max
P7,490
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.3GHz quad-core ARM Cortex-A7
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5" 1280 x 720
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM
- dual SIM

Xiaomi Redmi 2
P5,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.2GHz 64-bit quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 410
- 8MP rear, 2MP front
- 4.7" 1280 x 720
- 8GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

Xiaomi Mi 4i
P9,799
- Android 5.0.2 Lollipop
- 1.7GHz quad-core Cortex-A53 & quad-core 1.0GHz Cortex-A53
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5" 1920 x 1080
- 16/32GB built-in; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

ASUS Zenfone 2 (ZE551ML)
P13,995 (32GB)
P14,995 (64GB)
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 2.3GHz 64-bit Intel Atom Z3580
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5.5" 1920 x 1080
- 32/64GB built-in, microSD; 4GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

ASUS Zenfone 2 Deluxe
P17,995
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 2.3GHz 64-bit Z3580 quad-core
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5.5" 1920 x 1080
- 64/128GB built-in, microSD; 4GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

ASUS Zenfone Selfie
P11,995
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.7GHz Qualcomm MSM8939 Snapdragon 615
- 13MP rear, 13MP front
- 5.5" 1920 x 1080
- 32GB built-in, microSD; 3GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

ASUS ZenPad S 8.0 (Z580CA)
P16,995
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 2.3GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3580
- 8MP rear, 5MP front
- 8" 2048 x 1536
- 64GB built-in, microSD; 4GB RAM

BlackBerry Leap
P13,490
- BlackBerry 10.3.1
- 1.5GHz dual-core Qualcomm MSM8960
- 8MP rear, 2MP front
- 5" 1280 x 720
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE

Happy Mobile Prive
P11,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.7GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6592
- 13MP rear, 8MP front
- 5.5" 1280 x 720
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM
- dual SIM

Huawei Honor 6+
P17,990
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.8GHz quad-core Cortex-A15 & 1.3GHz quad-core Cortex-A7
- 8MP rear, 8MP front
- 5.5" 1920 x 1080
- 32GB built-in, microSD; 3GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

Lenovo Phab Plus
P14,999
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.5GHz quad-core Cortex-A53 & 1.0GHz quad-core Cortex-A53
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 6.8" 1920 x 1080
- 32GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

Lenovo S90
P13,999
- Android 4.4.4 KitKat
- 1.2GHz 64-bit quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 410
- 13MP rear, 8MP front
- 5" 1280 x 720
- 32GB built-in; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

Lenovo Vibe Shot
P17,999
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.7GHz octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 615
- 16MP rear, 8MP front
- 5" 1920 x 1080
- 32GB built-in, microSD; 3GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

Lenovo Vibe X2
P18,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6595M True8Core
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5" 1920 x 1200
- 32GB built-in; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- optional dual SIM

Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 8"
P13,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.33GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3745
- 8MP rear, 1.6MP front
- 8" 1920 x 1200
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM

Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 10"
P19,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.86GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3745
- 8MP rear, 1.6MP front
- 10.1" 1920 x 1200
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE

LG G3 Beat
P13,990
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400
- 8MP rear, 1.3MP front
- 5" 1280 x 720
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM
- LTE

Microsoft Lumia 640 XL
P11,990
- Windows Phone 8.1
- 1.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 400
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5.7" 1280 x 720
- 8GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM
- dual SIM

LG G4 Stylus
P10,990

NEW!

- **Android 5.0 Lollipop**
- **1.4GHz octa-core Qualcomm MSM8916 Snapdragon 410**
- **13MP rear, 5MP front**
- **5.7" 1280 x 720**
- **8GB built-in, microSD; 1GB RAM**
- **LTE**

SPEED SAYS

If you are crazy about form factor elegance and a hip-looking UI, the LG G4 Stylus is one hot phone for you. It is stylish, has a smooth and responsive stylus, and a decent clock speed.

MyPhone Infinity 2
P12,799
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.5GHz 64-bit octa-core MediaTek
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5" 1280 x 720
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

OPPO R7 Lite
P13,990
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 1.5GHz octa-core Qualcomm MSM8939 Snapdragon 615
- 13MP rear, 8MP front
- 5" 1280 x 720
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

Prestigio 5508
P13,899
- Android 4.4.2 Kitkat
- 1.7GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6592
- 13MP rear, 2MP front
- 5" 1280 x 720
- 16GB built-in; 1GB RAM
- dual SIM

Samsung Galaxy Tab A
P15,990
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.2GHz quad-core ARM Cortex-A53
- 5MP rear, 2MP front
- 8" 1024 x 768
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE

Sony Xperia C5 Ultra
P17,990
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.7GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6752
- 13MP rear, 13MP front
- 6" 1920 x 1080
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE

Starmobile ENGAGE 10 pro
P11,999
- Windows 8.1
- 1.8GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3735F Baytrail-T
- 5MP rear, 2MP front
- 10.1" 1280 x 800
- 32GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM

Starmobile Knight X
P15,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6595M
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 5.5" 1920 x 1080 IPS LCD
- 32GB built-in; 3GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

Xiaomi Mi Pad
P10,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.2GHz quad-core NVIDIA Tegra K1
- 8MP rear, 5MP front
- 7.9" 2048 x 1536
- 16GB, microSD; 2GB RAM

Apple iPad Air 2
Wi-Fi: P25,490 (16GB); P30,490 (64GB); P35,490 (128GB)
Wi-Fi+cellular: P31,990 (16GB); P36,990 (64GB); P41,990 (128GB)
- iOS 8
- A8X chip with 64-bit architecture and M8 motion coprocessor
- 8MP rear, 1.2MP front
- 9.7" 2048 x 1536
- 16/64/128GB; 2GB RAM
- LTE

Apple iPad mini 3
Wi-Fi: P20,490 (16GB); P25,490 (64GB); P30,490 (128GB)
Wi-Fi + cellular: P26,990 (16GB); P31,990 (64GB); P36,990 (128GB)
- iOS 8
- A7 chip with 64-bit architecture and M7 motion coprocessor
- 5MP rear, 1.2MP front
- 7.9" 2048 x 1536
- 16/64/128GB; 1GB RAM
- LTE

Apple iPad mini 4
Wi-Fi: P20,990 (16GB) P25,990 (64GB) P30,990 (128GB)
- iOS 9
- A8 chip with M8 motion coprocessor
- 8MP rear, 1.2MP front
- 7.9" 2048 x 1536
- 16/64/128GB built-in; 2GB RAM
- LTE

Apple iPhone 6
P35,990 (16GB) P41,990 (64GB) P47,990 (128GB)
- iOS 8
- A8 chip with 64-bit architecture and M8 motion coprocessor
- 8MP rear, 1.2MP front
- 4.7" 1334 x 750
- 16/64/128GB built-in; 1GB RAM
- LTE

Apple iPhone 6 Plus
P41,990 (16GB) P47,990 (64GB) P53,990 (128GB)
- iOS 8
- A8 chip with 64-bit architecture and M8 motion coprocessor
- 8MP rear, 1.2MP front
- 5.5" 1920 x 1080
- 16/64/128GB built-in; 1GB RAM
- LTE

ASUS Transformer Book T100
P23,995
- Windows 8.1
- 1.3GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3740
- 1.2MP front
- 10.1" 1366 x 768
- 32/64GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM

BlackBerry Classic
P20,990
- BlackBerry 10.3.1
- 1.5GHz dual-core Qualcomm MSM 8960
- 8MP rear, 2MP front
- 3.5" 720 x 720
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE

BlackBerry Passport
P35,790
- BlackBerry 10.3
- 2.2GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801
- 13MP rear, 2MP front
- 4.5" 1440 x 1440
- 32GB built-in, microSD; 3GB RAM
- LTE

Huawei Ascend Mate 7
P27,890
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.8GHz quad-core Cortex-A15 & 1.3GHz quad-core Cortex-A7 HiSilicon Kirin 925
- 13MP rear, 5MP front
- 6" 1920 x 1080
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

Huawei Ascend P7
P20,990
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 1.8GHz quad-core Hisilicon Kirin 910T
- 13MP rear, 8MP front
- 5" 1920 x 1080
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE

Lenovo Miix 2
P21,999
- Windows Phone 8.1
- 1.8GHz quad-core Intel Atom
- 5MP rear, 2MP front
- 8" 1280 x 800
- 64GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE

Lenovo ThinkPad 8
P25,490 (Wi-Fi only), P30,000 (3G)
- Windows Phone 8.1
- 2.4GHz quad-core Intel Z3770
- 8MP rear, 2MP front
- 8.3" 1920 x 1200
- 64/128GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE

Lenovo Vibe Z2 Pro
P29,999
- Android 4.4.2 KitKat
- 2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801
- 16MP rear, 5MP front
- 6" 2560 x 1440
- 32GB built-in; 3GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 Pro
P33,999
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 1.33GHz quad-core Intel Atom Z3745
- 8MP rear, 1.6MP front
- 13.3" 2560 x 1440
- 32GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE

LG G4
P31,990 (metallic finish); P32,990 (leather)
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 1.8GHz hexa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 808
- 16MP rear, 8MP front
- 5.5" 2560 x 1440
- 32GB built-in, microSD; 3GB RAM
- LTE

OPPO N3
P29,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.3GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801
- 16MP rotating camera
- 5.5" 1920 x 1080
- 32GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

OPPO R7 Plus
P21,990
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 1.5GHz octa-core Qualcomm MSM8939 Snapdragon 615
- 13MP rear, 8MP front
- 6" 1920 x 1080
- 32GB built-in, microSD; 3GB RAM
- LTE
- dual SIM

Samsung GALAXY A8
P24,990
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 1.8GHz quad-core Cortex-A53 & 1.3GHz quad-core Cortex-A53
- 16MP rear, 5MP front
- 5.7" 1920 x 1080
- 32GB built-in, microSD; 2GB RAM
- LTE

Samsung GALAXY Note 4
P37,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.7GHz quad-core Krait 450 (1.9GHz quad-core Cortex-A53 & 1.3GHz quad-core Cortex-A57)
- 16MP rear, 3.7MP front
- 5.7" 2560 x 1440
- 32GB built-in, microSD; 3GB RAM
- LTE

Samsung GALAXY Note5
P36,990
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 1.5GHz quad-core Cortex-A53 & 2.1GHz quad-core Cortex-A57
- 16MP rear, 5MP front
- 5.7" 2560 x 1440
- 32GB; 4GB RAM
- LTE

Samsung GALAXY Note Edge
P43,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.7GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 805
- 16MP rear, 3.7MP front
- 5.6" 2560 x 1600
- 32GB built-in, microSD; 3GB RAM
- LTE

Samsung GALAXY NotePRO 12.2
P39,990
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 2.3GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon 800
- 8MP rear, 2MP front
- 12.2" 2560 x 1600
- 32/64GB built-in, microSD; 3GB RAM
- LTE

Samsung GALAXY S6
P29,990 (32GB)
P34,990 (64GB)
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.5GHz quad-core Cortex-A53 & 2.1GHz quad-core Cortex-A57
- 16MP rear, 5MP front
- 5.1" 2560 x 1440
- 32/64GB built-in; 3GB RAM
- LTE

Samsung GALAXY S6 edge
P34,990 (32GB)
P39,990 (64GB)
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.5GHz quad-core Cortex-A53 & 2.1GHz quad-core Cortex-A57
- 16MP rear, 5MP front
- 5.1" 2560 x 1440
- 32/64GB built-in; 3GB RAM
- LTE

Samsung GALAXY S6 edge+
P39,990 (32GB)
P44,990 (64GB)
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 1.5GHz quad-core Cortex-A53 & 2.1GHz quad-core Cortex-A57
- 16MP rear, 5MP front
- 5.7" 2560 x 1440
- 32/64GB; 4GB RAM
- LTE

Samsung Galaxy Tab S2 8.0
P24,990
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.9GHz quad-core & 1.3GHz quad-core
- 8MP rear, 2.1MP front
- 8" 1536 x 2048
- 32/64GB built-in, microSD; 3GB RAM
- LTE

Samsung Galaxy Tab S2 9.7
P29,990
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 1.9GHz quad-core & 1.3GHz quad-core
- 8MP rear, 2.1MP front
- 9.7" 1536 x 2048
- 32/64GB built-in, microSD; 3GB RAM
- LTE

Sony Xperia Z3
P29,790
- Android 4.4.4 KitKat
- 2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm MSM8974AC Snapdragon 801
- 20.7MP rear, 2.2MP front
- 5.2" 1920 x 1080
- 16GB built-in, microSD; 3GB RAM
- LTE

Sony Xperia M5 Dual
P21,990
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
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Mobility and permanence

FELIPE P. JOCANO JR.

Whenever

I open my Facebook account, I get updates from friends and family here and abroad. We chat, write on each other's walls, post pictures and videos, and in general, maintain relationships with one another. I open my email accounts and I see notices of meetings, reminders of deadlines (including for this article!), requests for help, new issues of online journals that I subscribe to, and more. Twitter updates me on posts from friends and news from online media.

Physical distance has separated us, yet the internet has sustained our contact with one another. Personal messaging and video calling (e.g., Skype, Facebook video calling) have supplemented face to face conversations, and we use these channels to ask to meet in the flesh with those we hold dear.

Many of our communications via Facebook and other media are done while we move around. We have mobility upon mobility, sustaining interactions through our devices while we move around doing our daily routines. Yet at the same time, our mobility revolves around fixed points; we may be mobile, but we always refer to something always enduring.

Mobility in Philippine folklore

As a culture, mobility has been one of our features. In traditional epic literature from various indigenous groups around the archipelago, the folk heroes travel to different places, meeting challenges, overcoming enemies, and seeking the hand of beautiful maidens in marriage.

In the *Epic of Hinilawod* from central Panay, the hero sets off on a distant voyage to win the hand of a beautiful and powerful maiden. The *darangen* of Prince Bantugan, the folk hero of the Maranao, transports his community on a magic shield to the shores of Lake Lanao in order to save them from the attacks of their enemies.

The Ilokano folk hero Lam-ang travels a great distance to avenge his father's death and to win the hand of a beautiful maiden.

Movement and migration have long been part of our historical setting. In a recent conference on the history of the Spanish colonization of the Philippines, one of the speakers talked about how in the 19th century, many people settled in Mindanao from the Visayas after experiencing drought in their areas.

There are also stories of an entire community in Louisiana, USA, descended from Filipino sailors conscripted by the Spanish. These "Manilamen" jumped ship upon arrival in the New World, and intermarried with the local people.

In the 20th century, the search for further economic opportunities continued to drive the movement of people within the archipelago and outside, to other countries. Starting from the late 1970s onward, mobility has become one of the major economic forces in the country.

Seeking permanence

Mobility is therefore nothing new to our cultures. From traditional folk literature to the historical past and onward to the present, we have always been a people on the move, willing to take opportunities wherever they present themselves, but always oriented toward the future and for the welfare of loved ones.

The seeming paradox here is that mobility is driven by the sense of permanence; we move around in search of opportunities to provide for others because of our obligations toward them.

We are moving but always in relation to a fixed point, where we know the people significant to us are at the moment, both geographically and socially. Permanence is home—physically and in other ways. Mobility is temporary; eventually we will go home or else we put our roots down in a new home.

Kapwa and social media

Facebook and other social media platforms have in many ways served to strengthen that mobile connection to fixed points.

Across the diverse cultures that make up the Philippines, we all have something in common: the sense of being one-with-others, also known as *kapwa*. It is this sense of *kapwa* that drives us to continue seeking out and maintaining connection with others in spite of the physical distance between us. It is also *kapwa* expressed in the form of deeply felt obligations to loved ones that drives us to take risks in order to provide for them.

Social media has become the electronic means to sustain this feeling of *kapwa* and to help us continue maintaining our obligations as well as to expect the same from others.

Always connected

In writing this article, a question was posed: "Are we ready for mobile living?"

If we look at our folklore, our history, and our cultural values, we have always been a mobile people. The internet and the devices that enable us to access it have enhanced our connection to those distant and near from us. Even as we move physically, we are present virtually.

Mobility has never been far from us; it has and always will be a part of us.

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